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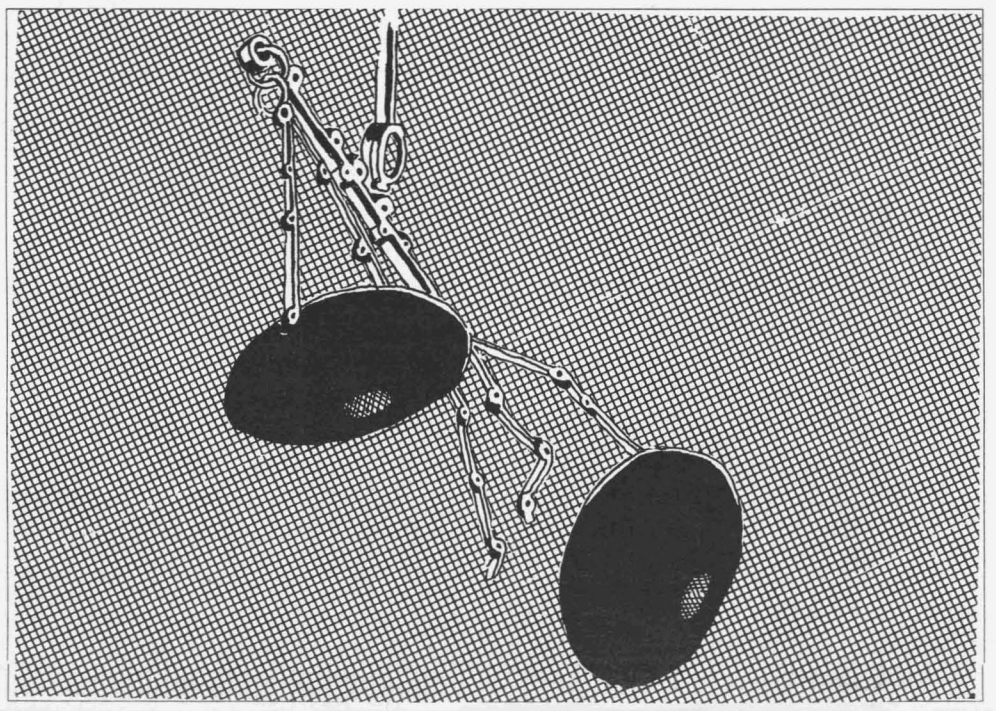
WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 5, NO. | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FEBRUARY 1995 ■ FREE

"Injustice wears ever the same harsh face wherever it shows itself." Ralph Ellison

What The Indian Child Welfare Is Not

Betty Young



In the middle of Nov. 1993, my husband, Walter Young, got caught in an affair. This is not the first time he has hurt his family, but for some reason I made the decision that this would be the last time.

As I was trying to get him to leave the home, his girlfriend called. I answered the phone to hear her cute little voice, told her to call him on her own time and not to call my number any more. He grabbed the phone from me, hit me in the chest with the receiver and ordered me out of the house.

I collected my children out of school and checked into a local battered women's shelter until I could get a Protection Order (P.O.). My husband also got a P.O. against me.

My P.O. read that I was to return to my home in Sumas, Wa. I tried to go back to my home, but each time I did I got hang up phone calls. We had a neighbor, also an abuser who was reporting to my husband my comings and goings. The third time, I attempted to go home, my husband actually came by our home and circled the block three times. On the fourth go round he turned his wheels as though he was coming into the driveway. My daughter ran out onto the porch. When he saw her, he straightened out the wheels and drove on. I called the police at 911 and was told I had reached the border crossing and would have to call the police in the town I was in. I asked for the number and ended up having to resort to the phone directory for the correct number. The police never showed up.

My daughter was afraid and wanted to leave and go back to Bellingham, where she lived. I insisted that we go to the police department and make a report. Later, when I saw the outcome of the report, it stated that this did not constitute breaking the P.O.

My landlord claimed I abandoned the house we were living in. Even though my last month's rent was paid through January 10, 1994. My land lord took all my possessions from my house, claiming I owed him $2,500. I called him, letting him know I was in the shelter. I kept him posted about what was happening to me. I told him I could not go back to the house because of Walter. He would call me at the shelter and yell at me. He left messages on the resident phone machine first yelling at me and hanging up then immediately calling back pleading with me to answer the phone, saying that he was just trying to help me.

I knew I could not be safe living in Sumas any longer. My children and I ended up staying here and there until we found another home in Lynden. My land lord immediately knew where I was. He called me at my new phone number claiming I owed $1,000. I have not figured out why the bill went from twenty five hundred to one thousand. He claimed he sold Walter's junk cars that were parked in the yard. If I gave him $500 he would let me have my property back. He would call me at 7:00 in the morning and as late as 9:30 in the evening.

He ended up selling everything I owned. He would not allow me to make payments on the storage unit. He would not allow me to collect my personal items nor would he give me the remainder of the money that he should have gotten over and above what he claimed I owed. He was sure to call me the night before he sold my belongings to tell me he was going through my things. That land lord sold over $50,000 worth of my belongings.

It was as though I never existed. All my children's pictures were gone my whole life was wiped out because this man found it necessary to display his might.

My husband immediately knew where we were by honeymooning our thirteen year old son, Justin, into telling him our whereabouts. My husband and his girlfriend kept me under surveillance and stalked the whole time we lived there.

[James] managed to get a pick-up order for my kids and a warrant for my arrest...I got the warrant quashed. I returned to my home... I knew my husband would continue to stalk but I figured I could handle one problem at a time.

When I went to court to get my P.O., my husband did not show up. I told the judge what happened and because of past abuse I was afraid of him. I got the P.O. because of my husband's idea of interacting with his children. His concept of "quality time" was to hang our cat from an archway in a plastic bag and shoot pencils at it in front of the kids.

He received monitored visits. My husband claimed the court commissioner who granted my Protection Order was prejudiced against him because he was Native American. He wanted to bring his tribe in on the matter.

In January 1994, my husband introduced Rudy James and Dianna Wynne to the courts. Rudy introduced himself as the "Oldest Raven" and the lead judge of the Kuye'Du Kuiui Kwaan, Tlingit Nation. Diana introduced herself as working with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Diana approached me before court, informing me not to fight with her, as she had more power than these puny "White Man's" court. She told me she had federal power. I couldn't believe my bad luck as I sat staring at the red hair, blue eyed woman as she made such threatening statements. I continued on and kept my Protection Order.

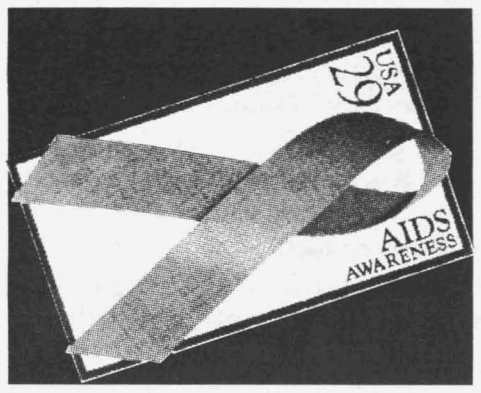
Rudy James sat with my husband during the proceeding and stood up to address the court. The Judge asked Rudy if he had a license to practice law in the state of Washington. Rudy replied he was not practicing law but advocating for the children.

After the proceedings, Rudy and Diana again approached me. They invited me to go to a public place to talk about the situation. They wanted us four to meet and "straighten this mess out." I told them because of Walter's behavior I was homeless with my children and I really saw no reason the four of us needed to talk about anything at all. Rudy is a very patient man. He said he could understand my fear and distrust, but he reassured me his motives were only to advocate for the boys.

At first I thought these people who showed up in court actually represented the tribe. I agreed to meet with them at a local restaurant and we did discuss the matter. They told me my children were wards of their court. Not knowing anything about tribal law, I asked how my children could be wards of their court. Diana told me that was simply ICWA policy and that in these sort of matters it was procedure for the kids to be made wards of the tribal court. They told me they were advocating for my children several times during the conference. They told me about the Indian Child Welfare Act and Diana told me she worked for them. I told them how my land lord had taken my things out of my house and wouldn't give them back. Diana told me she would write the landlord a letter on federal station-

(Continued on page 14)

Letters



Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

February Meetings

- **Feb 8th 7pm TESC LIB 2218**
- **Feb 22nd 7pm Olympia Timberland Library**

Political/Cultural Center Meeting

Feb 22 8pm
Olympia Timberland Library

A New World Army?

Dear Works,

I am writing to commend you and writer Tom Barnard on the excellent article exposing the awful effects and workings of the International Conspiracy perpetuated against the people of Bosnia and the world. Sadly it is true that the U.S. has directly supported with funding and manpower the plans and schemes of International Banking and Corporate interests without regard for human life or liberty through the U.N. and its various subsidiaries.

It is exciting to realize that both the "Left" and the "Right" have come to the same consensus on this issue as well as NAFTA and GATT. Possibly this is a sign that the power brokers who control our country and the U.N. are losing their ability to manipulate liberals and conservative against one another, distracting us from their immoral workings and activities aimed at total world dominion.

It may not be well known but the current drive to turn our military over to the UN was originally designed and implemented by our Department of State in 1961 as our country's official position. In a Department of State publication called "Freedom from War/The United State's Program For General and Complete Disarmament in a Peaceful World, it is spelled out quite clearly that the official goal of our government is to turn our military force and machinery over to the UN to be used to control the world. Anyone wanting to verify this information can either order the document directly from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office (Washington 25 DC) for 15 cents, or get a copy of the 1993 November 29th issue of *The New American* magazine entitled "New World Army" (PO Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54913) which included that State Department document.

Or course, the American people wanted peace in the world and were led into believing that peace was the objective in this State Department policy. What was not realized was how the UN was being used by International Banking and Corporate interests determined to enlarge their power and financial base without regard to human life or liberty all over the globe.

At this time, the power mongers connected with the Council on Foreign Relations (Rockerfeller's and Gingrich's un-elected establishment that controls US policies and elected officials) are so well entrenched in our government that the only hope we have of stopping them from their plan is to cut off all funding across the board. The UN would collapse within months without the financial support from US taxpayers and US military might.

I would urge all your readers to get the facts and use them to demand that elected officials cease funding an organization that is devoted to world government with non-elected, immoral and inhumane International Bankers and Corporate officials deciding the fate of the peoples of the world.

We (liberals and conservatives) may not agree on everything, but where we do we should not lost the advantage.

Thank you,

Trisha Holmeide, citizen activist for constitutional government

Tassoni's Reminder

Editor-

Your correspondent Pat Tassoni's rant on California Prop 187 went right past the most important fact and didn't even stop to blink. If Tassoni had a grip on anything connected with the real world, the low voter turnout would have been the first, main, and only thing mentioned. Permit me to remind Tassoni that nobody in California who had access to a TV, a radio or a newspaper was unaware that an important election was boiling to a climax. The amount of money spent by every semi-hangdog candidate made sure of that, and every station carried interminable commercials and "think-pieces."

If Tassoni was at all interested in the voting process, or the duties of a citizen, or the blessings of participatory democracy, the lack of public interest would have been the focus. Instead, what did we get? A ludicrous call to boycott things coming from California. Like what? Grapes, again? Ste. Michelle wines, again? How about anything made of cotton, since California is one of the biggest cotton producers? How about rice, Tassoni? How about bending down from you perch high above the fray and getting your hands dirty and shedding a little sweat, Tassoni?

Yours, etc.,
Charles L. Gerlach

Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Jerome Johnson, Zachary D. Lyons, Pat Tassoni, Greg Hohnholt, Marie Smith, Dave Campbell, Evelyn Montague, Teresa Jennings, Chris Russo, Sylvia Smith, Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

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WIP Schedule

WIP article submission deadline is:

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 7 pm. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7pm
Downtown Timberland Lib

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Dave Campbell at 352-6132

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In The Cougars' Den

Martin Luther King and Civil Rights

Jerome Johnson

"For people who are interested in social justice, the issue is not 'three strikes and you`re out'. The issue is four balls and you`re on. Four balls and you`re on is our tradition: prenatal care and Head Start—ball one. An adequately funded public education—ball two. A marketable skill or access to college—ball three. And a job; ,ball four, and you`re on. Lifting the children up, not just locking them up and burning them up is the alternative to the jail-industrial complex."

—Jesse Jackson, December 1994

Dear Colette,

How are things in sunny Arizona? Here it's been unusually clear, with some rain but not as much as we need. If we don't get it, I 'suspect those folks in Seattle are going to have to ration again this summer.

Hope this finds you and the family well. Tell everyone hello for me. Callie's lucky—my knees hurt for most of my first year, not four months; and Lou's right—the number of Soviet submarines did balance our carrier capability during the latter part of the Cold War.

Everything's pretty much the same here. My right rear tire blew out the other day, right in front of the house. Fred and I borrowed Ed's jack and changed it. Fred's back is still bothering him, but he's glad to be able to spend time with his family.

So many folks asking me about Martin's birthday.

It started early this year; an old college buddy and local activist called and asked if I'd be interested in giving a short talk at his daughter's high school on behalf of the Rainbow. Of course, I said yes (no, no money!) and off Mother and I went, to my alma mater. You know, the one that I helped open twenty years ago (okay, so did a few hundred of my friends.) Doug Heay is warden, now; Norwood retired a few years back.

The last time I'd been to Capital I was too young to drive, but that cloudy Friday I relished parking my old Ford in the upper parking lot, Faculty Country.

Mother and I were walking toward the building when a harsh voice called, "Hey! You going to the assembly."

We turned. A heavyset, middle-aged white man glowered at us from some twenty-five, thirty feet away.

Mother looked at me.

I met the man's eyes. "Yes sir," I said quietly watching him.

"I think that's a good idea," he snarled, but didn't move.

Obviously, he was some sort of security person. I wondered what kind of threat he thought we were, a lone man with his elderly mother leaning on his arm. As we walked into Pod C, her grip tightened. "This is Capital? My tax money goes to pay his salary?"

I could only shake my head.

Though it had been years, I retraced my steps to the gym with no trouble at all. I could almost smell the grilling hamburgers and spicy pizza, the basic fare of my high school day. If I closed my eyes I could almost see again the bell-bottoms, halters, long hair and mood rings; hear the Eagles, Stephanie Mills, George Benson, Boston. . . that, and more, was Capital in the mid-1970s.

Now, I looked around said to Mother, "We never had diversity like this—all ethnic groups, plus rappers and cowboys and everyone else. In those days, Hank Jones and I were the only brothers in school, and that was integration."

Dr. King believed in civil rights for everyone

Mother chuckled.

In the gym we met Mr. Grant, a very warm gentleman whose eyes sparkled with intelligence. He had made the actual arrangements, and now he crackled with that electric energy us civil rights folks get when we're about to do good deeds.

A group of students had put together a video production of Martin's legacy. Unlike many famous, overpaid "journalists", "analysts" and "pundits", these students had really grasped Martin's life and work. They noted his belief in Humanity, and nonviolent direct action; his fights for the rights of workers, the poor, the disenfranchised, the "least of these." They noted his fierce opposition to war in general and Vietnam in particular. They recognized not only the Dreamer but also the Fighter, the Leader, the Achiever. Moreover, in about fifteen minutes they showed the relevance of issues from Martin's time to today, and they are much the same, poverty, health care, education, jobs, wars. Colette, I cannot tell you how much honor and gratitude I felt for those students. Their video was every bit as powerful as ***Amandla! Awethu!***, and that`s no joke.

I was last on the program, and I kept it short. :

I urged them to vote.

I told them that now we must focus not only on racism, sexism, anti-semitism, but also homophobia, the last "acceptable" form of discrimination and hate. At this a nervous restless stir went through the gym, but I kept on; as long as any of us were at risk, none of us are safe or free. At this point a student raised his hand and asked "Do you think that Dr. King, being a minister, would have fought for gay rights as part of the civil rights struggle?"

I answered "Yes, Dr. King believed in civil rights for everyone and cited the story of the Bayard Rustin.

I relayed Anna Schlecht's message: "When King was alive, he was reviled as an' agitator' denounced as a Communist and actually considered by some people to be a threat to the country. History is kind now, but at the time it was anything but."

I warmed them the civil rights business is not safe. In addition to dogs, clubs, and firehoses, you can be harassed on and off your job (Which you could lose). You and your loved ones could be targeted for violence, your home and your place of worship firebombed, and yet....

I smiled, and shared the truth: that civil rights work—should they take it up, knowing the risks—is the most rewarding job there is, outside of the medical professions.

And I renewed a pledge I made in Sylvester Park not long ago:

If racists try to walk our streets and kill our friends in train tunnels, look around—because I'll be there. When hooded men ride by torchlight, look around, because I'll be there. As long as women are terrified of being shot for going to the clinic for a check up and homophobes try to legalize hatred, I'll be there. And if—ever again—there is glass breaking in the November night I'll be there."

Afterward, walking out, lots of students shook my hand and thanked me; I returned their thanks—after all you know what listening to me is like.

Two young women shyly approached and asked me what they could do about educating people. There's a lot of homphobia at Capital High School, they said and they couldn't stand it. "It's disgusting", they said. "We hate hearing that shit, and we have friends who are gay, and it hurts them, and then we feel bad because they're hurt and it seems like there is nothing we can do—We're not even old enough to vote yet."

My heart went out to them. All I could advise them was that they use caution and do what they could little by little, some here, some there, one or two choice words in the lunch line could be worth a whole course in multi-culturalism.

A young cowboy walked up, a gold cross glittering around his neck. He wanted to know why I was "so hot about makin` sure gays have civil rights "

"Because it`s the right thing to do, and it`s the law," I said kindly. "It`s wrong to deny someone a job, police protection, adoption rights, health care, a home—based on who they are (or who you *think* they are), when they`ve done nothing wrong. It`s wrong to kill people or hurt them because you may disagree with them—and let`s remember that we`re talking about our friends and loved ones, and ourselves. Everyone has to have civil rights, and we need to fight for each others` even as they fight for ours; as long as long as any of us are slaves, none of us are free."

He looked thoughtful, listening; a slender teenager in hat, jeans and boots. He carried a knapsack over his shoulder and hooked a thumb into his belt.

"You see," Mother said softly, "Imagine what your life would be like if you were denied those things—often legally—just because you were white. And what if the law said you couldn`t marry another white person because it`s `unnatural', and as a result you couldn't get spousal benefits What if people you didn't even know vandalized or even blew up your home, maybe killing you and your family, and the police you paid taxes to support didn't care?"

His eyes were wide, speechless.

"All we`re asking is to live and let live," I said.

Gravely he thanked us, shook our hands , tipped his hat, and walked away.

"Hmmmmmmm," Mother commented, watching him go.

"Now Mother", I said genially, "It wasn`t easy for him to come up like that, but he did. Maybe it started before, maybe today, but he`s thinking, asking questions, learning. Starting young, too."

"That`s young?"

"Well, yes; consider all the hippie Greeners who reach his level only in their third or fourth year, if at all."

Mother grinned.

When we got back to the parking lot, the heavyset man was gone. I started the Ford and drove out of Faculty Country, away from Capital to the monument of capitalism known as Safeway.

I saw Cal Thomas on C-SPAN Monday. He was spouting the usual Reaganite conservative bullshit, with a twist: Thomas believed that had Martin lived he would be a conservative. You know, like Shelby Steele or Clarence Thomas, or Colin Powell. "After all," Thomas said, "Dr. King believed in education, hard work and self-help."

Thank God George E. Curry, editor of *Emerge*, was there to refute him.

I stood in the kitchen and washed dishes, listening to them talk and respond to phone calls. I thought of how obscene it is for someone who concurs with the odious Contract On America to use Martin Luther King, Jr. and his invaluable legacy to sell an agenda which Dr. King

(Continued next page)

Along the Color Line

Blame the Black Man

Dr. Manning Marable

The basic representation of the African-American male within white society and culture rests on three key themes: sexuality, crime and violence. Young black men are stereotyped not for their intellect, their employment, or a hundred other criteria relating to their actual abilities or behavior, but are viewed as a menace to society solely by their physical appearance. This negative stereotype permeates the cultural apparatus to such an extent that it has become nearly impossible to discuss black males in anything except a distorted and flawed context.

The most recent example of black male pathology is currently on display in New York City at the Whitney Museum of American Art. The Whitney's current major exhibit, "Black Male: Representations of Masculinity in Contemporary American Art," was organized by African-American curator Thelma Golden. The exhibition features a wide range of photographs and paintings, each depicting an aspect of the black male in American culture. Golden has explained that her selection of various works was not guided by a specific political philosophy or social perspective, which would form the background to an interpretation of black manhood. Golden states that the exhibition "was never intended to be a sociological survey of black men." Golden specifically rejects what she terms the "fixed notion of what is a good image and what is a bad image" of black maleness, because it "doesn't allow for all complexities that are attached to all images."

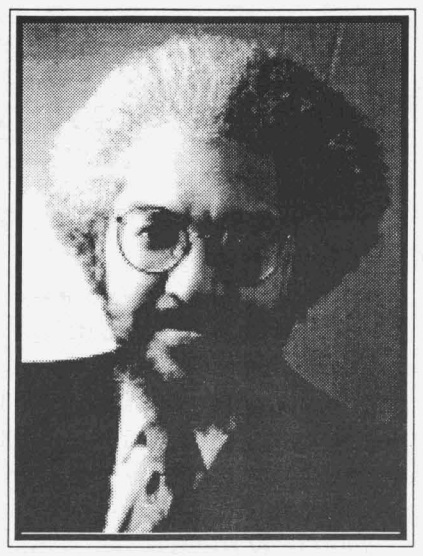
And it is precisely the absence of a coherent social theory or cultural philosophy linking race, gender and power, which explains the basic problems with the Whitney's exhibition. On display are Robert Mapplethorpe's striking phallic images, and Lyle Ashton Harris's photographs of a black man wearing a blond wig and a tutu. There are representations of muscle-bound black athletes and youngsters with oversized guns. There is Robert Colescott's satirical painting, "George Washington Carver Crossing the Delaware" which shows the humble botanist in militaristic pose, surrounded by stereotypical black characters like Aunt Jemima. But nowhere in the exhibition is there room for an explanation for the destruction of an entire generation of our young men within the criminal justice system. Nowhere do we receive an understanding of the devastating impacts of long-term, massive unemployment and discrimination in capital and labor markets.

The "Black Male" exhibition failed to include the works of many prominent African-American artists such as Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden. The exhibition features graphic depictions of sexuality and violence, but rarely illustrates the values of mature love, male tenderness, and social responsibility. Black male strength has more to do with integrity in the face of overwhelming odds, that it has to do with handguns, basketball sneakers, and sex organs.

Young black men are stereotyped not for their intellect, their employment, or a hundred other criteria relating to their actual abilities or behavior, but are viewed as a menace to society solely by their physical appearance.

The same "logic" behind the "Black Male" exhibit was at work last month at the Old Westbury campus of the State University of New York. A twenty year old white female student, Josephine Lupis, reported to police that she had been viciously assaulted by a black male. Her assailant was described in detail: six feet tall, wearing a green army jacket and woolen cap, and armed with a knife. The black man slashed her face and stabbed her in the stomach before fleeing with her wallet.

But certain parts of Lupis's story didn't make sense. Under further questioning, Lupis admitted that her entire story was fabricated. Lupis's cuts had been self-inflicted. Police explained that Lupis "was down on her luck and had personal problems." Of course, no one had to explain why Lupis could so easily use the stereotype of the black male criminal as a cover for her own emotional problems.



Sometimes life imitates art. The cultural symbols and representations we produce on television and films, as well as in our museums and children's textbooks, create the foundations for what we want to believe. If we blame the young black man for his poverty and joblessness, if we condemn him for seeking to excel in athletics, one of the few avenues available to him for public praise and upward mobility, we only extend the logic of Josephine Lupis. Black art has a larger responsibility, not just to report or depict stereotypes, but to project new directions and dimensions of human development. We must go beyond blaming the black man for society's ills, toward an appreciation of the millions of black fathers, husbands and sons who quietly defy the stereotypes with personal and collective excellence every day.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. Along the Color Line *appears in over 275 newspapers and is featured by 80 radio stations internationally.*

(MLK, continued)

would have relentlessly opposed—as indeed he did, in its earlier form before the Nixon Administration. It was sickening to hear Thomas pretend to honor King , when he had been one of the most vocal pundits fighting the establishment of Martin's Day. The tragedy is, lots of clueless black folks (like your neighbor Ali) think that Thomas, the conservatives, and Republicans really have changed, maybe they aren't so racist after all, and what have the Democrats done for them lately, anyway? I mean D. C. Watts is doing all right.

I thought of the Congressional Black Caucus, back in the days when it had guts and balls and nerve, leading the fight for Martin's Day.

I smiled. Martin would have liked the irony: we eagerly celebrate holidays "respecting" Cristobal Columbus, Andy Jackson and other masters of genocide, yet must struggle mightily to establish a day to celebrate peace and justice and the people who fought and died, and are still fighting , for it. But we won that one, honey, and even Newt won`t try to take it away yet.

I thought of the section of Woolworth's lunch counter in the Smithsonian, and those tough bastards in New Hampshire freezing on the steps of the Concord Statehouse. High school students peacefully protesting New Hapshires non-recognition of Martin's Day. I thought about the people out TESC facing a clearcut, and that I need to remind all my friends of Hispanic heritage to always carry their IDs, even for the smallest errands; the firestorm of racism from California and its Prop 187 is blistering through our area here... but nothing like down there , I'll bet.

What if Martin had lived?

Who knows.

Would he have won the 1976 presidential election?

How would he have handled the Iran crisis?

Even without being president, could he have prevented—or postponed–the election or Reagan or Bush?

We'll never know.

In Atlanta, the King family and the Park Service are fighting over who best to exploit Martin and his work.

In Minneapolis, Malcolm's daughter has been arrested for allegedly plotting to have Farrakhan whacked.

In Olympia, our jails are overflowing, homeless people freeze in the winter night, and women's clinics increase already tight security.

I stood at the sink and prayed.

love, Jerome

Jerome is Co-ordinator of the Thurston Couty Rainbow Coalition.

"The answer to injustice is not to silence the critic but to end the injustice."

– Paul Robeson

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The Return of the Initiatives to Legalize Discrimination

In this coming year, Washington residents will face two more discriminatory initiatives, sponsored by the same people who failed at last year's attempts.

The Washington Committee for Equal Rights, Not Special Rights has announced that they file an identical initiative to last years' I-608, although this year it will be an initiative to the Legislature. The first filing date for Initiatives to the Legislature will be March 8th.

This type of initiative will allow their group to have until December 31, 1995 in which to gather the required 181,000 signatures. Typically, and additional 20,000 plus signatures are needed in order to compensate for disqualified signatures. If they make this deadline, the 1996 Legislature will then do one of three things:

1.) pass the measure as is in the form of State Legislation,

2.) simply pass it on to the November 1996 ballot, or,

3.) pass an alternative measure and send both to the ballot.

As with last year's initiative, this version will again attempt to legalize discrimination by prohibiting state and local governments from granting minority status to homosexuals, bisexuals, transsexuals, and transvestites, as well as to prohibit public schools from presenting homosexuality as a positive behavior.

The Citizen's Alliance of Washington, affiliated with Lon Mabon's Oregon Citizen's Alliance, has diversified their efforts this year. They filed two initiatives, the first seeks to prohibit adoptions and foster parenting by gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transpeople. The second initiative addresses gun rights. This more limited scope shows a strategy shift. As quoted in the Spokesman Review, Sam Woodard admitted to having made a mistake in trying to eliminate gay parent's custody of their own children, "People, especially women, got all upset about the idea of taking people's kids away from them. Men are more analytical in their thinking. Women got emotional about it."

In response, Hands Off Washington is gearing up for another campaign to defend civil rights. The Thurston County Coalition will be holding it's next general meeting on Tuesday, February 28th, at 7PM, at the United Churches Basement Social Hall, located at 11th & S. Capitol. For more information or to get involved, either come to the meeting, call 786-6608, or write to HOW, PO Box 7221, Olympia, WA 98507.

Grethe Cammermeyer speaks at HOW Campaign Kick-Off Breakfast

Westwater Hotel, March 15th @ 6:45am

The Thurston County Hands Off Washington Coalition is proud to announce that we will be hosting a Breakfast Fundraiser featuring Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer on Wednesday, March 15th, at the Westwater Hotel. This will be our 1995 Hands Off Washington Campaign Kick-Off, as well as the first local opportunity to meet and hear Colonel Cammermeyer. Tickets for the breakfast will be $20, with price options available by calling 786-6608. Autographed copies of her book, "Serving in Silence" will also be available for sale.

Colonel Cammermeyer is the highest-ranking, most-decorated person to fight a discriminatory discharge by the military for admitting her sexual orientation. Her discharge in 1992 threatened to terminate her highly successful career. The Colonel began her service during the Vietnam War, and was moving towards becoming the country's chief military nurse, and possibly a general. In 1994, she was reinstated by a federal judge, and returned to service. However, the Army has appealed the reinstatement, and Cammermeyer continues her pending lawsuit against the army.

Colonel Cammermeyer has committed herself to making her personal battle against discrimination a significant part of the larger struggle for civil rights. Please come hear her speak on March 15th, and support the 1995 Hands Off Washington Campaign Kick Off Breakfast. Call 786-6608 for more information.

Civil Rights Rally Coming in March

Lavender Action, an educational and advocacy organization working toward equality in basic civil rights for affectional minorities, announced plans for a civil rights rally at the state capitol.

Final details are still being worked out, but the rally is scheduled to begin at noon on Saturday, March 11. See *WIP*'s March issue for complete details.

Project Coordinator Richard Kirton believes the rally is necessary to demonstrate to the Legislature that gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people are not going to quietly suffer continued discrimination and that our resolve is as strong this year as it has been in the past. "With the Republican party in control of the State House of Representatives, as well as Congress, there is a real threat that we will see attempts to roll back the progress we have made in the last few years. The potential exists for anti-gay legislation to be introduced, and vital service programs to be cut, especially in the area of AIDS education and services, which could be cut to insignificant and ineffective levels," said Kirton.

The first weeks of the Legislative Session have already seen the introduction of one piece of anti-gay legislation (HB 1171) which would prohibit adoption and foster parenting by affectional minorities.

The rally will be interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL).

For more information call (360) 943-4662.

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Were the beans for your coffee picked by workers earning $2 a day?

Sean Sprague, Impact Visuals

US/GLEP

Over 675,000 coffee workers are being paid poverty wages in Guatemala, a country with one of the worst human rights records in the hemisphere. Half the coffee they pick is for U.S. coffee companies like Folgers, Starbucks, and Gloria Jean's.

Donna DeLesare, Impact Visuals

Most Guatemalan coffee workers are paid $2 a day or less, even though a worker's family needs at least $7.25 a day to escape poverty.

During harvest season, workers put in 12-hour days to pick 100 pounds of coffee. That comes to 2 cents a pound for coffee that is sold in the U.S. for as much as $9 a pound by "gourmet" coffee companies.

Often whole families, including young children, labor together but only the father gets paid. Women who work alone are usually paid less than men.

Workers are exposed to pesticides on most plantations (although not as much so on gourmet coffee plantations).

Living conditions on plantations reflect the miserable wages—sanitation is poor, health care sporadic, and diets inadequate.

Eighty percent of Guatemalans in the rural sector live in poverty—and over 70% of children in rural areas where coffee is the dominant crop suffer from malnutrition.

Workers are fighting back, demanding fair wages and working conditions. But they do so at great risk: workers who demand simply the rarely-paid legal minimum wage, now $2.50 a day, are often fired, threatened with death, or even murdered. The legal system doesn't function, except to defend the owners and the military.

Guatemala is one of the worst cases-but coffee workers in El Salvador, Colombia, and elsewhere face similar conditions.

With your help, these workers who produce our coffee can win some justice.

We propose that U.S. coffee companies adopt a "code of conduct" to ensure economic decency for coffee workers. The code would require that plantation owners from whom U.S. companies buy pay a living wage, respect basic rights of workers, and abide by minimum health and safety standards.

Some U.S. companies, such as Levi's, Reebok and Wal-Mart, have recently adopted "codes of conduct" establishing minimal standards that must be met by their suppliers abroad. But no code has been adopted by U.S. coffee companies.

We are calling on the U.S.'s fastest growing gourmet coffee company, Starbucks, to be the first coffee company to adopt a code of conduct. Starbucks is one of the leading U.S. importers of Guatemalan coffee and sees itself as a socially responsible company.

Starbucks is just a starting point. If successful in Guatemala the campaign for codes would be expanded to other countries, in Central America and elsewhere, and to other U. S. coffee companies.

Eighty percent of Guatemalans in the rural sector live in poverty—and over 70% of children in rural areas where coffee is the dominant crop suffer from malnutrition.

We've been working for the basic rights of workers in Guatemala for several years. With the support of U.S. religious, human rights and trade union groups and individual supporters, we've helped Guatemalan workers win increased wages, an end to abuse, and recognition of unions at various factories which export brandname clothing to U. S. firms.

Our experience shows us that, with your help, this campaign *can* help persuade U.S. coffee companies to take *responsibility* and not just profits.

A National Day of Action will be held on February 11th. From 10:30am to 12:30pm there will be an informational picket at the Starbucks store on the corner of Legion and Capital Way, downtown Olympia. Call Mike at 456-2288 for more information.

The U.S./Guatemala Labor Education Project (US/GLEP) educates people in the U.S. about the denial of basic worker rights in Guatemala, provides ways in which people in the U.S. can respond effectively to the efforts of Guatemalan workers to achieve economic justice, and builds links between U.S. and Guatemalan workers US/GLEP is expected to begin work in other Central American countries shortly.

We believe that the goods we consume should be produced by workers whose rights are respected and who are paid a living wage.

We also believe that in a global economy it is in the interests of U.S. workers as well as workers in Guatemala and elsewhere that basic worker rights are respected everywhere. Denial of basic rights is an unfair trade advantage that hurts workers here and abroad.

US/GLEP is an independent, non-profit educational organization, working with U.S. religious, human rights and trade union organizations. We provide newsletters, action suggestions, and campaign materials for grassroots activity. To join or for further information contact:

U.S./Guatemala Labor Education Project
c/o ACTWU
333 S. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607
(312) 262-6502 fax (312) 262-6602
e-mail: usglep@igc.apc.org

What You Can Do

1. Contact Starbucks. Urge the company to adopt a code of conduct to ensure economic decency and basic rights for workers at plantations from which it buys, with Guatemala as a pilot project. Mr. Howard Schultz, Chief Executive Officer, Starbucks Coffee Company, P.O. Box 34110, Seattle, WA 98124-1110. Tel: 206-447-1575; Fax: 206-682-7570.

2. Join our Starbucks campaign. Just fill out the attached form. We'll send you updates about the Starbucks campaign and suggestions on what else you can do.

Our updates will also inform you about other campaigns we undertake to support clothing workers in the Central American export sector where, because of "free" trade, low wages and denial of basic rights undermine jobs and pay in the U.S.

A National Day of Action will be held on February 11th. From 10:30am to 12:30pm there will be an informational picket at the Starbucks store on the corner of Legion and Capital Way, downtown Olympia. Call Mike at 456-2288 for more information.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

A GATHERING FOR PEOPLE COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

6PM AT UNITED CHURCHES
11TH AND CAPITAL WAY

CIVIL RIGHTS, GOODIES, AND SOME TUNES!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FOLKS WHO ATTENDED *THE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY IN OLYMPIA* CONFERENCE

Winery Continues to Fight Union

Sheila Payne

Chateau Ste. Michelle (CSM) broke off all further negotiations with United Farm Workers of Wash, State (UFWWS), the union that the agricultural workers at the U.S. Tobacco owned wineries have asked to represent them in their 7 year long quest for collective bargaining with their employer. I attended a press conference at the Seattle Labor Temple on Jan. 19, where UFW officials, farm workers, and labor, church, and community members spoke about how the negotiations failed , and with what cynicism the CSM officials treated the whole process.

The winery never negotiated in good faith. As Dolores Huerta, cofounder with Caeser Chavez of the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) said, "all along the winery had no intention of setting up an election, they just wanted to get through the holiday season, when they sell 40% of their product for the year." UFW had also repeatedly delayed their call for a boycott of Skoal and Copenhagen chewing tobacco, UST products which account for over 90% of UST profits, to highlight that the boycott was not their primary focus, but that organizing the workers in the field was. Once again, 80% of the CSM workers signed union authorization cards, this despite all of the new workers hired by the winery in 1994, specifically for their pro-company statements.

CSM faxed a copy of their final offer to UFW on 1/12/95, with the demand that the union take it or leave it, and give us your answer by 1/13/95. The CSM Organizing Committee, comprised fully of elected farm worker representatives from each ranch, rejected the offer as totally unacceptable. With CSM's high powered PR machine, they can now say that, "hey, we tried to give "our" workers a fair election, but the union is too extreme."

The winery refused to agree on those workers that could vote in the election, wanting to include suspect new employees that none of the workers had ever heard of before. They refused to include the named worker plaintiffs in the successful 1992 lawsuit against CSM, who were fired for their union activities.

The winery said that the union would have only 7 days to have access to the farm workers at the ranches, only during the lunch breaks. In California, the union is allowed 120 days. This may not seem unfair until you realize that those labor laws that govern all workers except agricultural workers guarantee union access to employee names, home addresses, access to employee bulletin boards, etc. When I was hired at the Post Office, the Post Office had to allow my union, the NALC access to all new hires for one hour, on the clock. When the UFW goes to CSM fields before and after work, they are threatened with arrest for trespassing. And, the active union members are kept segregated from all of the other workers, so even though the winery has had 7 years to influence the workers against the union, the union has no real access to new workers. It is left up to the other workers to organize their fellow workers knowing that to do so will mean that their hours will be cut, their pay cut, they will be shifted to different jobs at other ranches, they will be harassed by the foreman (there are no forewomen), or they will be fired.

Compare this with the agreement between Stimpson Lane (all of the U.S.T. wineries) and the Driver Sales and Warehouse Local Union #117 (the Teamsters) who represent all of the cellar, bottling, and shipping workers at CSM. Sec. 2, ...It shall be a condition of employment that all regular and temporary employees covered by this Agreement shall on the 30th day following the beginning of such employment become and remain members in good standing in the Union. Failure to join said union will result in termination within 72 hours. The same day that UFW union reps were meeting in Chicago with CSM reps, and a third party arbitrator, and while the winery put out a full press packet about how they were negotiating with their farm workers, and have always wanted what was best for their farm workers, blah, blah, blah, they were systematically firing workers back at the ol' farm for "suspect documentation". One man had worked there for 12 years, and all of a sudden he is no longer "legal"? CSM was sending their message, you may have lived here for 3 generations, but if your skin is brown, and you are pro union, beware. We can justify anything we do.

One man had worked there for 12 years, and all of a sudden he is no longer "legal"? CSM was sending their message, you may have lived here for 3 generations, but if your skin is brown, and you are pro union, beware. We can justify anything we do.

The UFW union wanted the wages of the farm workers at CSM to be comparable to the wages of the farm workers under UFW contracts in California. This should be no problem, right? CSM's stated position has always been, "...our salaries and benefits exceed all negotiated contracts by the UFW in California", from a letter that they wrote in response to WFSE #843 letter dated 10/9/87. Now they say that "the arbitrator shall specifically consider the wages, hours and working conditions of agricultural employees in similar employment within the relevant area in Eastern Wash.,.." Guess what, this is minimum wage. Compare this to what CSM pays the union cellar workers at CSM. Article 5, WAGE RATES- The following minimum hourly wage rates (starting wage) shall be in effect as of 10-1-94 , $14.55.

The employer will contribute $288.05 per month for health benefits, etc.

The last stipulated condition that I will explain about in this article that the UFW could not accept was that the UFW could only organize full time workers. What that means is that there would be a two tier wage and benefit system and that the union can not advocate for those workers that are not considered full time. So, if a supervisor discriminates against a part time worker, or puts that worker in a dangerous work situation the union would be prohibited from providing assistance. Compare that to Sec. 2 of Local 117 referenced above. Plus, the winery would make sure that eventually no workers meet the conditions to be considered full time. I planted fir trees for 2 years. One of the company's that I worked for had been union for 20 years, but in those 20 years, not one new hire had ever been able to qualify for a union job. There were only 4 people left from that original bargaining unit. We (non-union) worked for minimum wage, they made 3 X as much. They were guaranteed 40 hours/ week, we showed up at 5 a.m. and hoped to get work . This is a management tactic that destroys worker solidarity. No union should ever agree to only organizing full time workers, because sooner or later there are no full time workers, and other workers resent the unions "interference", because they think that without the union there they would be working more hours. Compare this to Article 1 of Local #117, that CSM will continue to recognize the Union as the exclusive collective bargaining agent for all cellar... employees including temporary and seasonal employees employed at...

Some highlights of recent Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee (OFWJC) actions. For the fourth consecutive year, OFWJC had an informational picket at the Capitol Food and Wine Festival, held at St. Martin's College. For the fourth year in a row the alumni and the faith community of St. Martin's College refused to ban the boycotted wines from their festival, even though the Catholic Church has long advocated for farm worker collective bargaining and democracy in the fields, and has also endorsed this wine boycott. St. Martin's again listed Thomas O'Grady, vice-chairman of US Tobacco, who gave $1 million to St. Martins, as a sponsor of the festival.

OFWJC, in conjunction with the Olympia Film Society, hosted the film, "Troubled Harvest", a movie about farm worker women and pesticides. We also organized a presentation before the Wash. State Liquor Control Board, requesting that the board remove all Stimson Lane wines (CSM, Columbia Crest, etc.) from distribution in Wash, State liquor stores. There is precedent. The board did honor the boycott of South African products for example, to support the dismantling of apartheid there. We were asking the board to look in their own back yard at the racial injustice in the State of Washington, and to take a principled stand. Though many union, church, and community members spoke on behalf of the farm workers , it was the farm worker testimony that had an impact on the board commissioners. They seemed really moved by the compelling accounts of the farm worker working conditions, and management harassment. One commissioner told Mark Jennings, the spokesperson for CSM that he did not know if there was anything that the board could do, but that he (the commissioner) had been a member of the Human Rights Commission, and the same appalling working and living conditions still existed for farm workers in the Yakima Valley as 20 years before. And, furthermore, it seemed to him that CSM had a serious public relations problem that seemed to be getting worse. The board said that they needed more information and the union wanted to set up a hearing in the Valley so that more workers could testify. The Board without informing the UFW beforehand, publicly denied the request for the removal of the wines a couple of weeks later. What they stated to me in response to the letter that I wrote at the request of my union, NALC #351, was that: "The Board considered the facts in this matter and determined that the issue between the employer and the union involves a labor dispute which removes this from the Boards scope of authority and falls beyond the purview of the Board. While individual Board Members have strong feelings in regard to the alleged plight of migrant farm workers, the proper forum for addressing the issues would appear to be the State Legislature." This response sounds like something that the winery wrote for them.

The challenge goes on. Two more restaurants in Olympia joined the boycott last week by dropping the wines. One of the restaurants had carried the wines for over 15 years. Join us at the pickets, or if you would like someone to speak to your group, or if you want more info, call Sheila at 352-2153. ◆

Bio-Centrism: Dealing With First Thing

Grace Brookman

The invaders of this continent, of whom I'm a descendant, by and large shunned the practice of living interdependently with other beings, or bio-centrism. Their cities and fenced private yards separated them from what they imagined to be 'wilderness'-until they developed it all. Even 'their' forests became biological deserts, put to 'work' for private profit and jobs. And as for the animals, they either jailed them in zoos or labs (like the grizzly bears at WSU) or drove them as far away as possible, quite often into extinction.

Perhaps their failure to embrace a more bio-centric life was due to patriarchal social control and christianity or to a fear that unburdened itself through an attempt to control the unknown. Maybe it was greed or a refined taste for the world's 'highest standard of living.' For all I know, perhaps it was just an experiment to see what would happen when they unraveled the web of life and dismantled the food chain.

Whatever the explanation, the intensity of the world-wide environmental crisis makes it so that we can no longer accept such a disconnected and usually violently imposed belief system. Enough is enough. In our search for social justice, it's time to add in those who cannot speak: the animals, the birds, the fish and the trees. It's our environmental legacy that threatens all life, not theirs. In a time of mass extinctions, to dismiss the existence and protection of any other creature should be unthinkable, whether that creature makes us happy or not.

I know we have to deal with white skin privilege, racism and inequality. All these things go hand in hand. As long as we keep associating the protection and defense of the natural world with that privilege, we may as well kiss the long story of evolution goodbye. That means humans too. It's time to set a priority for reversing the ecological catastrophe that threatens all life, whether it walks, swims or flies, before that catastrophe takes away our chances for creating a socially just society. No matter who we are, we're all in this together.

I don't believe that the movements for social justice and the movements of revolutionary ecology and biocentric environmental activism are that far apart. Together we pose a formidable threat to a lifeless system of corporate greed. If we choose to learn from one another we may yet share a common vision of a world that practices justice for all.

If we're seeking change we will be targeted and we must be critical of the divisions that arise between us and seek to understand their real origins.

Recently the FBI ambushed and imprisoned animal rights, environmental and social justice activist Rod Coronado (his letter appears in the December '94 issue of the *Earth First! Journal*). Rod had been living among his people, the Yaqui, at the time of his abduction. "In ceremonies we danced to our fallen warriors of the past, and to our animal relations who are our sisters and brothers. We began to build bridges with non-native environmentalists and joined them in their resistance to the desecration of sacred places on our mother earth. The federal government called me a threat to the community. The federal government wants to jail me for 56 years even though I've never hurt anyone or caused loss of life. I am innocent of the charges against me."

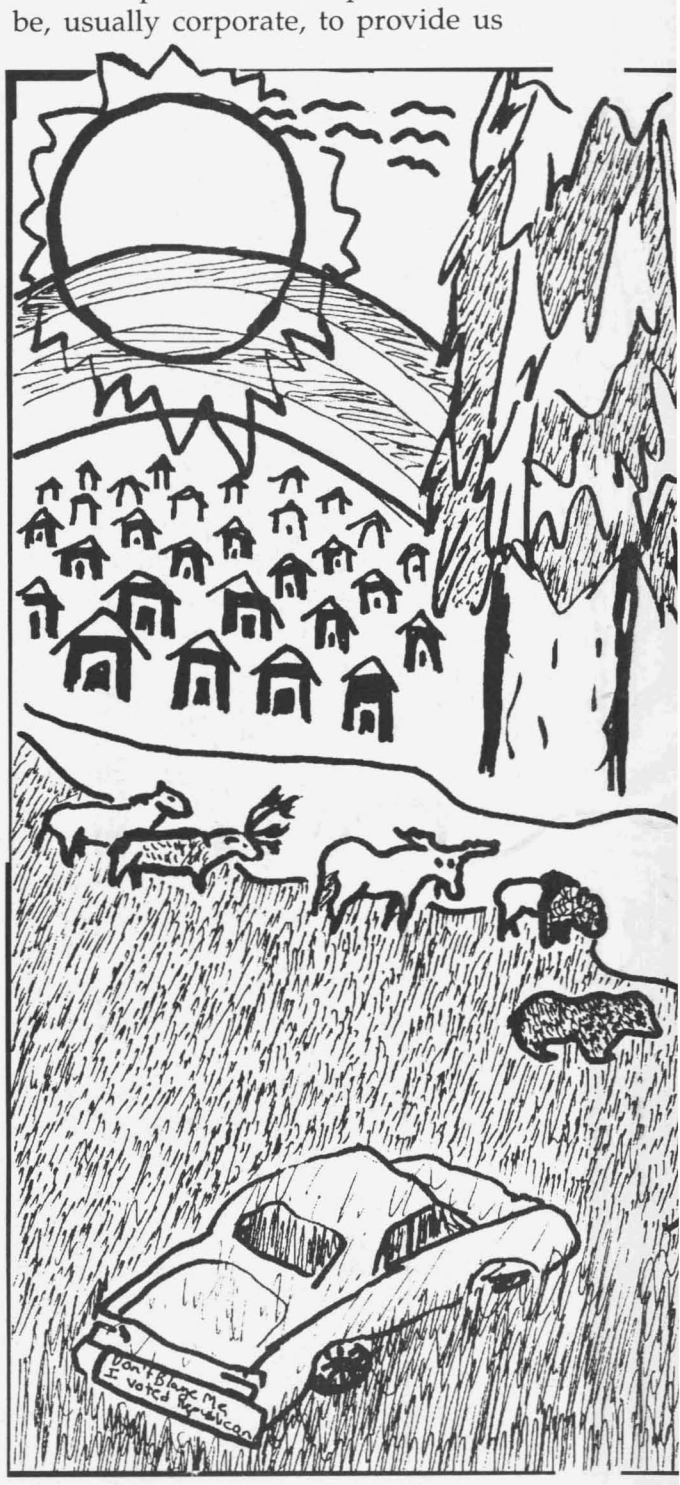
It is the bridges, whether between different sovereign nations of native peoples and environmentalists, or among social activists, workers, the public at large, which are most threatening to the powers of control in this nation. I recommend that anyone who hasn't read Ward Churchill's book *Agents of Repression* pick up a copy (it's available through Left Bank Books in Seattle). Read it and take heed: not only do we suffer from our divisions but those divisions strategically limit our ability to make change. Churchill's well documented account of the FBI's counter-intelligence (cointel-pro) programs, used against such movements as the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement, is a chill warning. Tactics used to divide movements and destroy bridges have also been used against proponents of revolutionary ecology.

Earth Firster!, women's organizer and workers advocate Judi Bari was nearly killed along with another activist in a car bombing a few years ago. Recent information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act revealed that local law enforcement agents and FBI men (including Richard Held of cointel-pro infamy) gathered for a workshop on car bombing on Louisiana Pacific Land just weeks before the bombing took place. Judi was preparing a campaign, known as Redwood Summer, to protect some of the last remaining redwoods on private land (LP Land) in California. We can't afford to be naive. If we're seeking change we will be targeted and we must be critical of the divisions that arise between us and seek to understand their real origins.

Two basic beliefs of bio-centrism include 1) the rights of non-human creatures to exist for their own sake, their need for habitat and their relation to the intricate web of life; 2) the immediacy of the world-wide environmental crisis, its threat to all beings and its foundation in consumer industrial culture. I share the feelings of many revolutionary ecologists that the social justice movement all too often follows the dominant paradigm by believing that only humans matter, as is reflected in their newspapers, their conferences and their goals. This attitude of human isolationism - humans separate from all other life and unraveled in their importance or capacity to suffer has its foundation in our own warped past.

The roots of this belief in amerika, for those who knowingly or unknowingly accept it, are bound up in the judeo-christian biblical tradition, practiced in its extreme form by multi-national corporate rapists such as Weyerhauser and exemplified in belief by the dominion theology of fundamentalist right-wing christians. This theology sets humans high above the rest of creation and establishes that the body of the earth exists FOR humans to exploit and dispose of as they please. Many will recognize similar treatment of women, people of color, native peoples, and workers. While our brother and sister relations are disappearing to extensive clearcutting, roading, slash burning, grazing, mining, pesticiding, damned building and development, we are encouraged to identify with the city, the workplace and human-made creations. We are told to look one way while they wrench the life out of the earth in another. The struggle for species survival is not an esoteric one - not a new age quest for meta-physical connection with our wild cousins. It is real, immediate and painful.

It could be said that living in a city is much like living in someone else's imagination, created and arranged according to someone else's desire for a controlled environment. The usual result is dependency, tyranny, social control and removal from nature. Our homes, depending on social factors such as race, class, and income, are more and more within the confines of these urban concentration camps. Today, 80% of our youth will grow up in the city. The further we are from the natural world, the more exploited and dependent we are; the extreme example being prison. Not only are we dependent on the powers that be, usually corporate, to provide us with our food and income (which they remain in control of) but the struggles and the lives of beings outside the city seem unreal. When we identify only with humans on a day to day basis, we tend to negate the existence and the importance of other beings.



In the Pacific Northwest the immediacy of the world-wide environmental crisis is reflected in the devastation of our forests and waterways and the loss of almost all large, wild predators. Since these forests have sustained native peoples from the beginning of time, their protection is a native issue. The member of sovereign nations within what is called British Columbia have never ceded their lands to the Provincial government yet retain no control over them whatsoever. In a statement signed by nine native nationals of sovereign nations of the so-called province of BC, entitled *Ecocide As Genocide:*

The ethno-biological continuity

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ings First

of life as our ancestors knew it is at the point of no return throughout the Pacific Northwest. The systematic alteration of the ecology in which outr autochthonous cultures flourish correspondingly, inevitably and self-evidently entails the systematic destruction of our human cultural identity-for the character of our cultural identity is by definition dependent upon continuity of the bio-cultural identity of our forests.

Another statement issued by the Qwa-Ba-Diwa nation of coastal BC states:

> One of the most impressive remaining examples of ancient temperate rainforest, including the magnificent, awe-inspiring Carmanah-Walbran Valleys, Qwa-Ba-Diwa is under attack from multi-national logging companies Fletch Challenge, MacMillan Bloedel and their contractors Pat Carson Bulldozing. We natives and non-natives who are working with sovereign native nations are appealing for your help...All peoples will be welcome to the lands of Qwa-Ba-Diwa to enjoy its immense beauty and spirit, but right now it is unprotected, and now being logged. We need activist support now!

The Nuxalk Nation of central mid-coast BC is also under attack:

> In the name of progress and multinational corporations, often in collusion with the BC government, are devastating the land through clearcutting. These companies operate with impunity because the remote nature of the area hides them from public scrutiny. A campaign to develop a greater awareness of the area is currently underway, but in the meantime the corporations are liquidating the forest as fast as they can. One of the prime culprits in this destruction is International Forest Products (Interfor)...We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren, and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish, and trees.

If the fate of people after their lands are destroyed is dependency, poverty and urbanization, the fate of many other species is extinction and extirpation-being driven out. MacMillian Bloedel (MacBlo) has its largest share holder in the BC government and the forests are being liquidated in clearcuts miles long.

The same is true of the forests in Washington and Oregon. Less than an hour from Olympia, the Olympic, the Gifford-Pinchot and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie national forests are once again open to the clear cutting of old growth. With the implementation of Option 9 and the closure of the court case on the spotted owl, sales, old and new, within old growth are ready for the ax.

If the direction of the environmental movement is toward the 'workplace', the multi-nationals have proved themselves to be total recidivists–repeat offenders–and to be non-reformable. These companies need to be dissolved through the complete revocation of their corporate charters, public documents which are supposed to keep them working in the public interest. Assuming that you are one of the employed, or want to be, a movement that focuses on the workplace assumes that the role of activism is to reform rather than recreate. It places our demands far too low and covertly says that we are willing to accept many hideous things, including the devastation of wildlands, if only we are allowed to participate safely or even just to survive with a decent standard of living within the society as it now exists.

Such a movement may be more acceptable to larger numbers of people but fails to challenge the entire system of exploitation that leads to prisons, zoos, extinctions and other atrocities. It seems ludicrous to me to focus the majority of our energy, for example, on improving the working conditions of the Tacoma export docks for MacBlo (although it might throw a wrench into their machinery), while this destructive multi-national corporation continues to devastate native lands and grizzly bear habitats. These recidivists are driving us to the edge of complete planetary destruction and it's time for us to abandon them!

Work is another institution which goes hand in hand with the destruction of the earth. Prisoner and prisoner rights advocate, the man the FBI once tried unsuccessfully to manipulate into assassinating Leonard Peltier, Standing Deer, says it all very much to the point in an essay in *Cages of Steel: the Politics of Imprisonment in America:*

> There is an illumination within me–a spark of life like a dream that tells me that human beings were meant for something better than knocking their brains out in somebody's mine or factory...They have stolen just about all the land and resources from my people. They have taken the lumber from the forests and now the game and fish are almost gone since they have poisoned the lakes and rivers and streams. Our Mother Earth Suffers...Now that they've stolen all our shit, they make us volunteer to become their slaves without even putting chains on our hands and feet. They steal our labor. They issue us pieces of green paper to buy food, clothes and things we just have to have and then they tell us we are free. And while we work until we wear out like used automobiles, they become richer and richer and more powerful.

It could be said that living in a city is much like living in someone else's imagination, created and arranged according to someone else's desire for a controlled environment. The usual result is dependency, tyranny, social control and removal from nature.

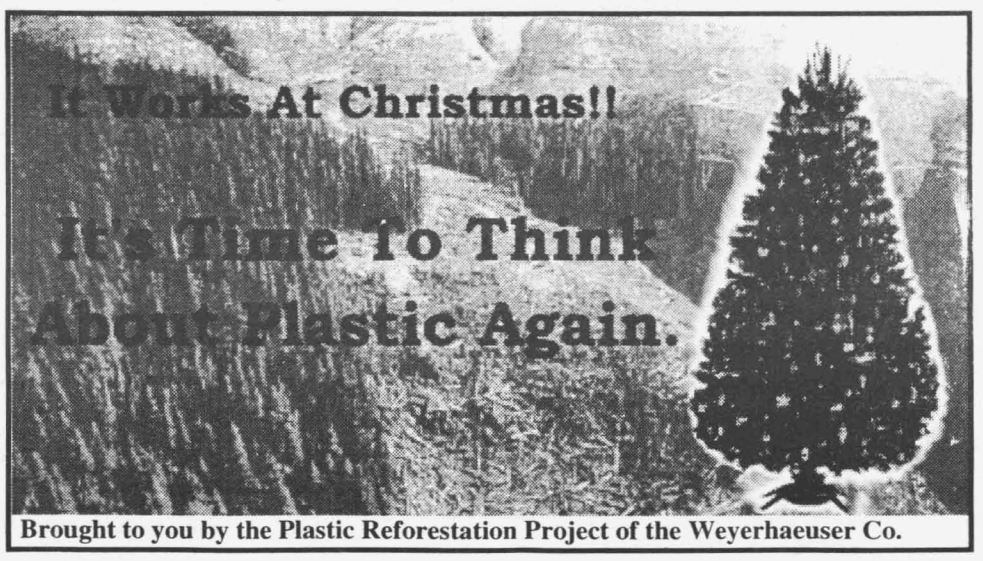
Further, if the direction of the environmental movement is more towards 'community', in defining community we should include considerable habitat, wildlands, and nearby national forests as well as a vision of what our cities are built on. Olympia, built on a drained and dredged wetland, was once and still is known as Cheetwoot of place of the bears. And I don't mean black bears (grizzly bears are lowland species whereas the diminutive black bear lived in the mountains where food was not as plentiful). Olympia was a thriving grizzly bear community before native people and the bears were driven out. What's it gonna take for us to give them back *their* community!

Ultimately, our activism must set a priority based on the only factor that can completely determine the outcome of all other struggles, whatever they're for. Planetary survival is not on anybody's list of choices; it is required. Nothing else can possibly be more urgent or demand more of our immediate attention, whichever way we choose to approach it. The survival of biologically diverse creation, numerous species of plants and animals, is not a choice to weigh with the continued economic growth, industrialization and "freedom" of human beings. The World Scientists warning to humanity:

> Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Human activities inflict harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment and on critical resources. If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know. Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about...We must recognize the earth's limited capacity to provide for us. We must recognize its fragility. We must no longer allow it to be ravaged. This ethic must motivate a great movement...

If we do not deal with first things first all other issues will be mute and our idea for a democratic society will fail.

Grace is an Olympia community member who 'works' for the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, a small group doing forest protection and rural outreach–on some social issues too! ◆



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The 1994 U.S. Economy: Prosperous for Whom?

Peter Bohmer

According to many economists and the mainstream media, the problem, with the U.S. economic performance in 1994 was that it was too good. For example, the headline in *The Olympian*, December 23rd 1994 was, "*1994 a bit too prosperous*". This story taken from the Associated Press might have been appropriate for April Fool's day. However, it was a cruel joke for the Christmas season and is false for most people in the United States and globally. Whom was 1994 too prosperous for? for the 40 million people who are living below the official poverty line; for the seven million who are looking for jobs and can't find one or the many millions more who can only find part-time work or have given up looking for work; for the many millions who have lost their jobs and have found new jobs paying lower wages and fewer benefits; for the 18,000 people a month who use the food bank in Grays Harbor County compared to 3,000 a month five years ago; or for the majority of the working population whose wages purchase less each year than they could the year before.

1994 was too prosperous for the top 1% of the population, the richest households who own over 1/2 of all the wealth. It was too prosperous for the high end of the income distribution, the 10% of families who earn $100,000 a year or more and increased their share to almost 1/3 of total U.S. income, at the expense of the rest of us whose share of income continues to decline.

This growing inequality of income and wealth is caused by the growing power of big corporations, with the support of the Democrat and Republican party: to attack unions and the minimum wage; to cut social programs, particularly for the poor; and to play off communities and even nations against each other by threatening to move production to where they can pay the lowest wages, the least taxes and where they can pollute the easiest. NAFTA and the recently passed, GATT, increase the ability of corporations to achieve these objectives. This corporate power must be challenged by all of us who judge a country's prosperity not by the number of Mercedes Benzes, mansions or millionaires, but rather by the availability of health care, affordable housing, quality education and a livable income for all.

"Monetary Policy by and for the Elites"

In *The Olympian* article mentioned above, they quoted an economist: "The bottom line is the economy is doing a bit too well". Isn't an economy, its people? Clearly most people are not doing too well. This pro-corporate argument is that economic growth of 4% a year is too high and therefore interest rates will go up. It is not a law of nature that interest rates have to go up. Rather it is decided by the Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) who will continue to raise them unless we organize to stop it. The Fed gives fear of inflation as the reason for its actions, but their primary concern is profits, particularly for banks, and the portfolios of the wealthy.

The Fed with no opposition from the Clinton Administration has raised the interest rate for borrowing six times in the last year and will continue to raise interest rates in 1995. They know that this will soon lead to less housing construction as mortgage rates rise, reduced business spending on plant and equipment as borrowing costs mount, and less purchases of consumer durables such as autos, dishwashers, washing machines and personal computers as the costs of borrowing money increase dramatically. This will cause layoffs in these industries which will then spread throughout the economy as the newly unemployed also cut their purchases of goods and services.

Why are these inhumane policies being pursued? The Federal Reserve Bank and most of corporate America fear that unless they stop output from growing, more jobs will be created, which would reduce unemployment and give working people the power to restore some of the cuts in wages they have been suffering. So Alan Greenspan, the head of the Federal Reserve Bank, acting on behalf of Wall Street, consciously and cynically aims to raise the unemployment rate so those still working will be even more afraid of losing their jobs making it more difficult to organize to improve their wages or working conditions.

Latest theory on dinosaur extinction: Alan Greenspan was in charge of feeding them.

...the need for social movements and a new political party that does not attack the poor, immigrants, women on welfare and those without power, but organizes from the bottom up to build solidarity and unity among all those committed to a more equal society.

"Redefining Full Employment"

This is part of the same claim that we now have full employment or more than full employment. To talk about the present as too prosperous or as a period of too high employment is obscene. It denies the life experiences of millions of people whose existence is made invisible and denied. Rather than working to lower the high unemployment and underemployment in our society, economists and policy makers have continually raised the amount of unemployment they call full employment.

Although the unemployment rate fell to 1% of the labor force during World War II, full employment was defined as 3% unemployment during the late 1940's. Today, it is defined as 6% or even higher. That is why the current official unemployment rate of 5 and 1/2%, which significantly underestimates real unemployment, is considered by most mainstream media and economists as too low a rate, as more than full employment. What is meant by this double-speak definition of full employment is not real full employment—that every one who wants to work is working. Rather, the term full employment is now used to signify the unemployment rate that leads to or is consistent with maximum corporate profits.

"What is to be Done?"

This points out the insanity of an economic system whose bottom line is profits and not human needs. It points out the need for an independent media, not one who serves, and is part and parcel of corporate America. It points out the need for social movements and a new political party that does not attack the poor, immigrants, women on welfare and those without power, but organizes from the bottom up to build solidarity and unity among all those committed to a more equal society.

We must challenge the power of those who run the corporations until they can no longer hold communities hostage or devastate them by their decisions of what, where and how to produce, how much to pay, and how many to hire and fire? Wouldn't real democracy mean the residents of the communities where firms are located and the employees in these firms make these decisions?

Peter Bohmer is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, and faculty member in Political Economy at the Evergreen State College. ◆

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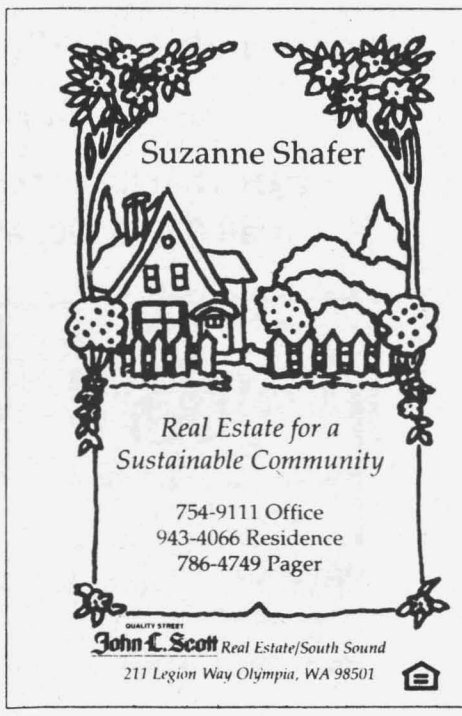

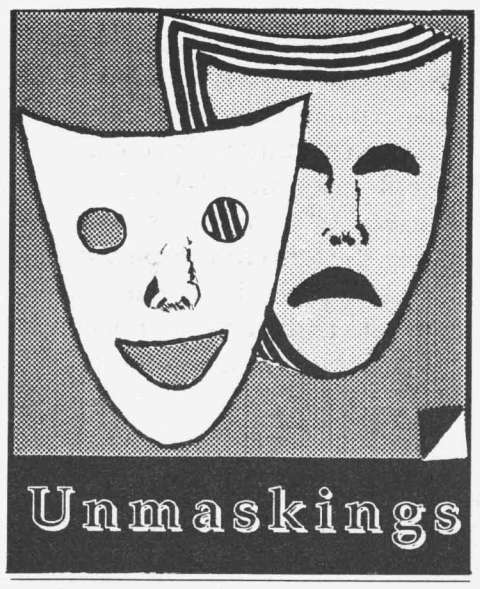

Trouble Coming Every Day

Ron Jacobs

As I watch news broadcasts of Russia's imperial adventure in Chechneya, I can't help thinking of the US military actions against Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, and Iraq. All of those military actions shared one basic similarity with the current campaign against the Chechneyan people: a vastly superior technological force against a lightly armed people. Unlike Panama and Grenada, however, the Chechneyans are, at this writing, holding their own. Like the Americans in Vietnam, Russia continues to terror bomb the civilian populace, yet cannot seal a victory. Like the US in Iraq, the real reason for the war is oil.

Maintaining the conspiracy of imperialists, the United States government has been quite lax in its criticism of the Russian assault. Bill Clinton and his spokespeople speak of a supposedly loftier desire for world peace while that very peace is being continually challenged by those who prefer something other than the new world order. As for the Newtniks in the Congress, their hypocritical calls for a cutoff of aid to Russia fails to convince even their supporters who know only too well that, when the time comes for the US to call out its armies to protect its interests, Newt and the boys will be leading the charge from their C-SPAN telecast.

Meanwhile, in the Caribbean, the low-intensity takeover of Haiti continues. According to news reports, the Haitian police and military are for the most part being allowed to keep their jobs and the refugees at Gauntanamo in Cuba are being forcefully repatriated. The fate many of these individuals will meet upon their return is uncertain. As for Aristide and his people, they give the whole operation a pleasing facade. Unfortunately for Aristide and his constituency, the economic restructuring program he agreed to so he could return has made the possibility of even a minimum wage of $1 a day unlikely. One can be sure, though, that the business people who opposed Aristide will turn a tidy profit once and all publicly owned utilities and businesses are privatized according to that same plan.

For those who wonder why we in America are being left out, do not fear. With the ultraright in control of congress now, our economic restructuring is bound to take off like the Starship Enterprise at warp nine. No longer will there be a pretense that the government cares about the poor, whether they work or not. Assistance to those without jobs will be cut, their children put in orphanages and, for those with jobs, Bill Armey of Texas has a solution: no minimum wage. After all, without a minimum wage, everyone can be employed. Some of us malcontents might object to such a plan as slavery, but don't worry, there's a new crime bill coming to deal with us kind of folks. The whole scenario would be a joke if it wasn't real. But it is and if we don't fight it with every means at out disposal, the only people who will be laughing are the ones who will benefit.

Our task is not to reach the same group — that mythical 30% who always elect the winner — that the Democrats and Republicans speak to, but the rest of America. Not the mythical 30% of the populace whose leaders somehow manage to convince them that, no matter what their line of work is, they have the same interests as the rich who make their money from our sweat, but those of us who work and know we're getting ripped off. Not the mythical 30% who think that blacks and other non-white peoples have no right to what the 30% have had all their lives, but those of us who know that affirmative action is merely the first move towards justice. Not the mythical 30% who think the counterculure is to blame for all of today's societal ills, but those of us who know that it is the death throes of American capitalism which have caused the disenfranchisement of millions and the resulting disintegration of human values. There's little point in converting those who oppose our agenda, for they have their own. Instead, we must work to involve those who have either no agenda or little hope in anyone else's. ◆

Our task is not to reach the same group--that mythical 30% who always elect the winner--that the Democrats and Republicans speak to, but the rest of America.

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Don't Blow It, Bill!

Since 1945, 2,065 known nuclear weapons test have not only driven the nuclear arms race but have also damaged human health and the environment. Enough is enough! The nations of the world can and must reach agreement on a test ban treaty this year - the 50th anniversary of the nuclear age.

The treaty to ban nuclear test forever is in jeopardy. We need your help *now*. President Clinton's personal intervention is critical to saving the treaty.

You can help! Here's what you can do:

• Write a letter. A personal, hand-written letter to the right person in the White House is still the best way to influence policy. Feel free to use the sample letter below.

• National Test Ban Call-In Day on January 30. Call the White House at (202) 456-1111.

Sample Letter Text

President Bill Clinton
attn.: Leon Panetta
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for extending the nuclear testing moratorium last year and for your role in restarting negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB).

But as you may know, the Conference on Disarmament is now moving slowly — too slowly to sign a treaty by the time the world considers extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April. If the negotiations drag on much beyond this date, long-term support for a CTB will be hard to count on.

Only your personal intervention in the test ban talks can break the logjam. We urge you to work with Russia, the United Kingdom, and other key delegations to submit a new treaty text this coming month in order to reach agreement on a test ban in 1995.

I fear that the opportunity to achieve a test ban may soon slip away from us. Please do more now to make sure that does not happen.

Sincerely,

Sarajevo Project Update

The Dance of Hope

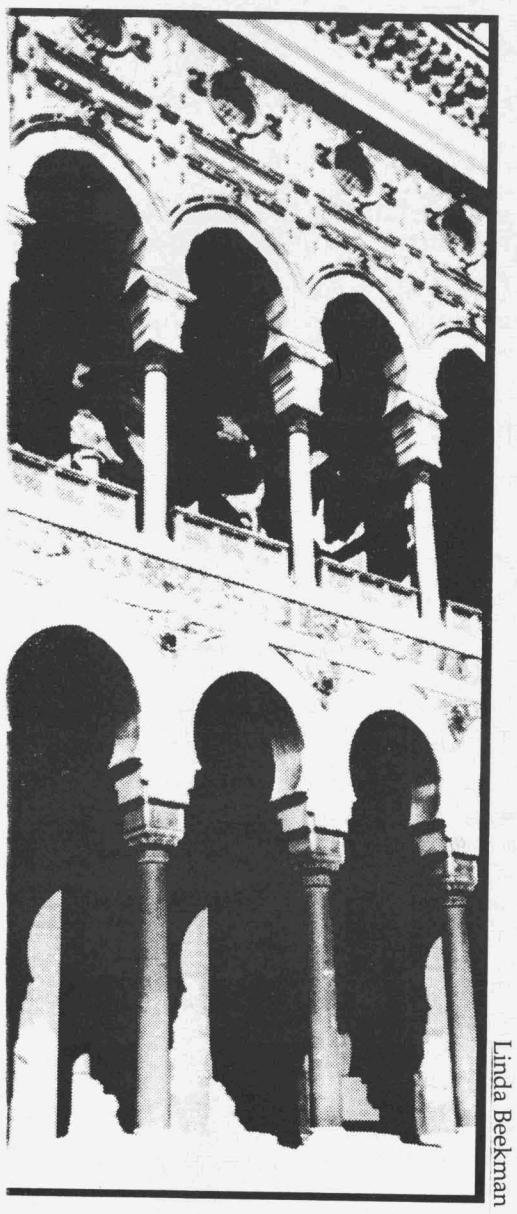
Linda Beekman

Linda Beekman recently returned from her third trip to Sarajevo, where she has been acting as a peace witness and delivering humanitarian aid. This trip she focused on bringing donated supplies to the ballet company. Her visits over the past two years have given her a chance to observe the changes in the city and its people, and in herself.

Since my return from Sarajevo, I've struggled in myself to process my experience there. In spite of the difficulty of this, I feel a responsibility to report back to the many supporters of the three trips I've made. I now realize that I have imposed a second, and unrealistic task upon myself, that is, to interpret, or make some kind of sense of what is going on there. This I cannot do. Sarajevo has caused me to question all I know about myself and the world so I return home for the third time with only questions and no answers. So I will share with you my experiences and questions, believing that we all have and are part of the answer.

October 22-24

My flight to New York connected with an overnight flight to Vienna, followed by a six hour train ride to Zagreb in order to renew my press card (required in order to be able to enter the war zone). Shortly before arriving in Zagreb at 10:30 pm on the 23rd, the police on the train told me that I must go with them up two flights of stairs, all the time feeling that my friend Amir and his family, who were going to put me up for the night, might be waiting in front of the station. The police studied and pasted a Croatian visa in my passport, then said I could go. I took a taxi to my host's apartment and discovered that they had been at the station to meet me. They helped me carry my luggage up three flights of stairs, gave me dinner, and we caught up on the news since my trip last February. I went to bed exhausted.



Linda Beekman

The Library of Sarajevo

The following morning I went to the train station, where I checked the two large pieces of luggage, then to the UN Press Office. I said goodbye to Amir, thanking him for his family's hospitality. When I told the guard I had come to renew my press card, he said that it was a UN holiday and I should come back tomorrow. At first I felt disappointed, but one thing I have learned in traveling to Sarajevo is that you should never take the first answer you get. Sure enough, other journalists began to arrive, and in about an hour, the Press Officer came and issued us new cards.

By then it was raining and I made my way back to the train station, stopping next door at the Telegraph, Telephone and Post Office to send a fax to the UN in Geneva requesting permission to take 50 extra pounds on the plane to Sarajevo (in all, the $4,000 worth of dance shoes and supplies I had collected for the Sarajevo Ballet Company weighed over 100 lbs). Retrieving my luggage, I caught the 2:30 pm train back to Italy.

During the first change, in Venice, I met two Swedish journalists who had been at the press office that morning. We kept each other company during the remainder of the trip that included one more change and arrival in Ancona at 4:30 am. I took the 6 am bus to the airport while my companions waited until the grocery stores opened. My bags were so full, I couldn't have taken one more thing. Besides, I was anxious to get to the airport and fly.

Journalists flying in and out of Sarajevo on the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) airlift planes have dubbed the service the "Maybe Airlines." Maybe you fly and maybe you don't. Sometimes a plane would come in and be unloaded and then take off without the passengers who were waiting for planes in the waiting room. Today, I found out, we would not be flying anywhere. Only one plane was operating and I was number eight on the list. This time, because I was falling asleep while standing up, I decided to accept no for an answer and try again tomorrow. I crashed at a one-star hotel (the cheapest), and slept almost through to the next morning. Again I took the 6 am bus to the airport. UNHCR had received a fax from Geneva giving me permission to take the extra weight. I was now third on the list and at least three airlift planes were flying today. A UN soldier from England came out to check three of us in and finally our bags were searched. The young man was a little startled to find dozens of pairs of toe shoes, not the usual cargo for Sarajevo. One of my Swedish friends boarded the plane with me and helped me load my luggage. As when I first flew to Sarajevo with fellow peace activist Anne Montgomery, the cargo was flour, three pallets. I inserted my yellow sponge ear plugs (which I saved from my last trip) and the plane's engines roared. My first trip to Sarajevo had been marked by a blissful ignorance. This time I felt very aware of the stark reality that the airport had been closed for many days due to the extremely tense conditions and shelling.

Renata Zbanic and her son, Haris

October 26

On arriving in Sarajevo, I knew things had changed when a taxi driver offered to drive me from the UN headquarters to my friend Renata's door for $15. Before it had cost $60. I had stayed with Renata, a ballerina with the ballet company, on my previous trips. So everything seemed familiar, accompanied by a sense of comfort, which is a bit bizarre, considering that Sarajevo is still a war zone. We spent the day catching up on the news from her parents and brother, who live in the US. Pasha, Renata's husband, was fighting on the front line seven days at a time. Baby Haris was visiting his grandmother. Everyone was well. that evening, by candlelight, we unpacked the supplies and made packages for each dancer, with Renata choosing sizes and colors that would be appropriate for each person. The following day we would go to the theatre to arrange to distribute the supplies.

My first trip to Sarajevo had been marked by a blissful ignorance. This time I felt very aware of the stark reality that the airport had been closed for many days due to the extremely tense conditions and shelling.

Sarajevo seemed quiet except for the random gunfire. There was gas most of the time, and water every third day. As before, all extra containers including the bathtub, were filled with water. The kitchen was the same. Water had to last the three days; if we ran low, that meant a trip across the bridge to the former beer factory where good drinking water could be found.

October 28

ABC-TV was interested in filming us giving the supplies to the ballet, so they were there on Friday, as we pulled wheeled suitcases down the street to the theatre, as the dancers trying on the shoes. They interviewed both Renata and me. I was a chance to speak in metaphor about violence and hope.

When I was young, I studied ballet for a number of years. I know first hand that there is something magical about getting a new pair of pink satin toe shoes. Shoes are the instrument by which a dancer defies this earthly gravity and takes flight, transforming themselves into elusive sprites, capable of feats that humans would not dare attempt. By continuing their art during this way, these dancers lift themselves and other out of the despair of violence and into a place of peace and hope. The somber reality of war is resisted.

I held my breath until all of the dancers found shoes that fit. At last all of them had at least two new pairs of point shoes, along with two leotards, four to five pairs of tights, one pair of leg warmers, one dance skirt, one pair of soft ballet shoes (actually three dancers did not receive these, but I promise to send them later), and a variety of makeup. The ballet mistress said that this was the first time since the war began that anyone had though about the needs of the ballet. She and the others were excited at the prospect of beginning work on new programs.

I left the theatre that day relieved and joyful that this specific project, to outfit the ballet, was completed and successful, thanks to all of you who have supported this and former trips. I felt more than ever that the ballet and all it stood for about human grace, dignity, and cooperation supports peace in this city tortured by hatred and violence.

But with the joy, I also felt a sense of despair about Sarajevo. Outwardly, things looked better. Food was available at near affordable prices, the trolley ran except on days

(Continued next page

(Dance, continued)

when it was attacked, people sat in cafe bars drinking coffee. But the reality of Sarajevo remains—it is a city under siege, held hostage, with one of more civilians, including children, executed most every day, not by a random shell, but by a carefully aimed bullet, something I cannot comprehend.

October 29

In Sarajevo, one can't focus on the pain for too long or one will go crazy. So the following day I went with 16-year-old Lejla to her school, as part of another aspect of this Sarajevo project. I had brought pen pal letter written by Osceola High School students, coordinated by Tampa Bay activist and teach John Stewart. John encouraged his students to share their lives through letters with teenagers in Sarajevo. The response was great at both ends. School conditions are difficult in the besieged city, with teach shortage, students attend school two hours a day, six days a week, covering 14 subjects. Other than this structured time, kids have no where to go and not much to do. The letters were received with great excitement. Perhaps if everyone in the world had a pen pal, war would not exist.

I met Lejla and her family, who are refugees in their own town, during my last Sarajevo trip. She wrote a letter at that time that was printed in the *Peace Paper* and other publications, a letter which dramatized the agony of war, especially for children. In October, Lejla's sister, Belma, escaped the city via the tunnel under the airport. Hopefully, she will arrive in the US soon.

November 1-3

I spent the last few days in the marketplace, shopping (with you donated dollars) for food and supplies for the families that I have contact with, hoping that even a few extra items will boost their nutrition and health for the approaching winter. I left Sarajevo on November 3rd, to fly to Split to visit Belma and deliver some letters to families there. ABC-TV drove me to the airport as they were going to the front line to film Renata's husband returning to the trenches after his two days home. As I arrived at the airport, I wondered why there were so many soldiers, then I saw—across the muddy parking lot, a brown stained box was carried by eight Ukrainian men and women. Comrades gathered to see this soul back to the homeland. I felt stunned, sick, one more victim of violence in former Yugoslavia. We both departed Sarajevo.

Afterthoughts

Last week I ordered some holiday cards from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, reading "the power to life up is stronger than all that holds us down." I like to cling to this idea, but how do we hold ourselves and others up when we confront constant violence in the world? We say "never again," but how can we intervene? The "again" has happened already in former Yugoslavia, genocide, women raped, concentration camps, children and babied killed, while we all look on. I though that by going to Sarajevo I would be absolved from the guilt that the blood would not be on my hands. But it is. "o one is free while others are oppressed." So I struggle, looking back to the example of the dancer, defying earthly weight, in order to find hope that we too will learn to defy the gravity of violence and take flight, creating a world of peace.

Reprinted from the January 1995 issue of The Tampa Bay Peace Paper; *130 19th Ave SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. Linda Beekman was recently appointed as the coordinator of the Tampa Bay Peace Education Program.*◆

I've Been There

I've been there,
And that's the reason why I care.
I've seen poverty and suffering everywhere.
I've been there.

I've often thought that if we cared,
We'd wipe out suffering everywhere,
I still believe that this is true,
But it has to start with you.

We've got to change the system too,
And that, of course, must start with *you*.
We've got to start right now, today,
We can't delay another day.

We've got to share our things with others,
And treat them more, not less, like brothers.
I think this is a good solution,
But it will take some resolution.

We all must do more than we do.
And this refers to me and you.
Each one of us must do his part,
With actions coming from his heart.

From *Along the Way* by George Riffero ©1990

Welcome

Happy Birthday Ian!
You are 15 years old.
A courageous, articulate
young man.
One who sees deeply
through
The superficial gloss
And cruel lies.
Thank you for your
presence,
Humor,
Amazing flights of philosophy,
And insistence on justice
For all.
Some may mock and abuse you,
But many more are on your side,
Our side.
The side of all that is
Just and of Peace.
Thank you for here now
Being a member of our community.

Sarah Light

The Vision

For Martin Luther King Jr.

White man love yourself
But love me too.
Flesh of flesh
blood of blood
We are two halves
of a whole
a unity.

For an era in time
you walked over
my body
crushed my bones
suppressed my spirit
stifled my talents
then shelved my
tears.

I, fearful and cowed
aped you ideas
genuflected when you passed
played clown to you moods
nourished you superiority
catered to your greediness.

Then came the vision.
We are all God's children
molded in the same form
though different in color.
The travail of birth
the restful sleep
of death
the agony of living
All-the measure of man.

There ensued the action!
the assertion of equality
the affirmation of dignity
the insistence upon justice
the freedom to mingle
the prescription to be human.
The myth was pierced
and the domain of the real
acknowledged
The process was painful
the achievement sweet
Now flesh of flesh
blood of blood
twin aspects of a common
humanity.

Jay Morgan

UNPORFOR

(UN Protection Force)

Yesterday we walked to Alipasino Polse and back,
one hour each way.
Returning home, I saw a large vase of flowers
sitting on the sidewalk near the curb.
Renata explained, flowers in memory of a child,
dead, not by snipers bullet or a shell
but by a UN tank.

It seems the driver,
going too fast,
out of control,
drove up onto the sidewalk
and knocked over a tall metal streetlight
that in turn knocked over
one small frail child and
in that instant
crushed all bones and dreams.

In that instant a life "protected"
by the UN Protection Force
went unprotected—
another death in Sarajevo.

Linda Beekman
Sarajevo, Nov. 1994

(Child Welfare, cont.)

ary and perhaps this would convince him to return my things. They made a lot of promises that seemed real to me.

Diana told me the tribe could not help me unless I signed a document authorizing them to take jurisdiction. As I had needed to believe in something, I believed in them. I signed.

As time went on, none of their promises came to pass. They never did anything to protect me or my children from Walter. In fact, weeks went by without knowing where they were at all. In late February, Justin pierced his ear. Walter resorted to name calling and refused to see him during monitored visits so long as Justin had the earring in. Something happened to Justin to again be called names by his father. Justin told me how Walter made him report my comings and goings. Justin told me about four criminal acts Walter had tried to get Justin to commit. I called the police and now have four counts of criminal solicitation against him. Walter was never arrested. Justin became afraid all the time. He had told on his father and he was sure his dad would somehow retaliate against him. Walter was spotted several times in our neighborhood and again at Justin's school.

I kept calling Rudy and Diana along with the police. Rudy said he would arrest Walter if he didn't cut it out. Finally, they came to my house after several frantic calls from me about Walter and his behavior. They were in Alaska the last time I called them. They came to my house a 6:00 am three days later. They said they had been traveling all that time to come and deal with this problem. Rudy said they were going to set a court date on March 17 to deal with Walter breaking the P.O. and all the other things he had been up to. Rudy assured me they were now here to protect me.

They left and I didn't hear anything from them for several weeks. I tried to find them but they were at none of the numbers they had given me. Finally, I caught up with them at one of their friend's house where they were staying. I never did talk to them in any professional environment. In the last conversation I had with Rudy he informed me court was to be in Everett.

It was a divorce custody battle and I was to bring my three sons. We would meet before a panel of six impartial judges. I heard from several agencies in the county that Rudy had faxed subpoenas to them. The documents stated that it was regarding a divorce custody battle with me, the petitioner. I had not filed for divorce at that time.

I started investigating these people. I found out they were not a federally recognized tribe and that in essence they were trying to illegally get my children from me. I gathered information from The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Central Council, BIA Law and several other entities before I went to the police in Lynden. I gave them the names and phone numbers of all the people I had talked with who had informed me that Rudy was up to no good. I asked him to please call them to verify my story. The officer who took the report rolled his eyes and acted as though I was some sort of nut.

The next day Justin saw Walter a block away from our house. Again I called the police. The same officer took my call. He said he had not done anything about my report from the day before. Again he was treating me as though I had just escaped from another planet.

Finally, I took my children and hid in a shelter in Seattle until, I thought, I had the issue resolved. I had an order from Superior Court Judge Nichols. Rudy had managed to get a statement from this judge getting full faith and credit. He managed to get a pick-up order for my kids and I had a warrant for my arrest. When I heard about the warrant I talked with a Bellingham detective who actually listened to my story. He then talked to a Whatcom County Prosecutor who talked with the judge and got the warrant quashed. I returned to my home. Thinking I had resolved the problem with Rudy and Diana. I knew my husband would continue to stalk but I figured I could handle one problem at a time.

Sure enough upon my return to Lynden, my husband continued to stalk. I continued to call the police. My son who had told me several things my husband and his girlfriend had put him up to was afraid all the time. On May 5th, Justin attempted suicide. He told the hospital staff, the CDMHP, the police and emergency team he thought if he wasn't around his dad would leave his mom alone.

Later in May, my son was angry with me for grounding him for spending the night out. He ran away from home with the help of his father. I even found Walter's cigarette butts outside, beside my car. The police did not arrest him because he took Justin to the Lummi Reservation.

May 17, I went to court out at Lummi. Walter had gathered together his battering buddies. I took my legal advocate from the Crisis Center and two witnesses. That day I did not attend a court hearing–I was subjected to a witch hunt. I was not allowed to talk; Rudy James ran the show. My witness was not listened to. The whole thing would have been laughable had it not been so dangerous.

Rudy was claiming I abused and neglected my children, but he would not say exactly what it was I supposedly did. The Lummi Prosecutor was trying to help me as she knew I did not mistreat my children Justin was in counseling there and the prosecutor's office and the counseling clinic had a relationship so she would have known about any abuse that would have happened.

Diana talked in length to the judge about a letter from the Federal Marshal. I had not seen the letter so I had no idea what the letter said; but Diana was claiming the Federal Marshal supported Rudy and his tribal court. Later when I got a copy of that letter it read that the Federal Marshal did not support them and they were not a federally recognized tribe.

Rudy kept talking about the Indian Child Welfare Act. The Prosecutor kept asking what did ICWA have to do with any of this. Rudy wanted the table full of women to please be quiet so he could talk. My legal advocate was scared. She is a professional woman and not a "flighty woman." She was afraid for both my safety and hers. She witnessed Walter verbally attacking my witnesses threatening to beat one of them up.

The Lummi Judge gave custody of Justin to Walter in spite of everything I tried to tell him about Walter's inappropriate behavior with children.

The outcome of the trial that day was to leave all the kids in the homes they were in and that court would again meet on Thursday of that same week. Rudy was not satisfied with this. He left that courtroom went over to Lummi CPS. There he told a CPS worker that the judge had issued a pick-up order for my two younger sons. This woman took his word as truth and issued a pick-up order for my little boys. She also talked in length to Womencare, the shelter for battered women in Bellingham.

Lynden Police came to my home with this pick-up order. They told me because it was tribal, they would not have to act on the order but wanted to check on my little boys. They left satisfied that none of the accusations were true.

By Friday of that week, I had finally obtained an attorney, pro bono. I had met with her to complete divorce papers and a restraining order against Walter, Rudy, Diana, and the whole Lummi Nation as well as any agents acting on their behalf. At the same time Rudy and Company were in Superior Court before Judge Nichols. This was a hearing that I was not served to attend, so I was denied due process.

The restraining order was served on everyone that evening. The whole company was again into Judge Nichols chambers the next day which was a Saturday. He issued a pick-up order for my little boys to be released to Rudy James. The judge did not even find out if Rudy had facilities to house two little boys.

My little boys were picked up from me the next day as I was driving to the beach with the boys for an outing. The sheriff would not let me out of my car to call my attorney. He looked at my paperwork. My daughter happened to drive by at that time and stopped to find out what was going on. I asked her to call my attorney. The sheriff kept us there for about forty-five minutes.

When the sheriff was taking my two babies out of the car my little boy, Nick, who was only five years old tried to hide under the front seat. He was terrorized by all these uniforms and guns. My other son William was angry at me and would not eat for several days after I got him back.

This should never happen to anyone!

My attorney managed to contact the judge. She also managed to get them into a county Child Protective Services safe home. CPS went to court with me on Tuesday and my children were returned to me. Whatcom County Child Protective Services, who are trained to recognize abused children, gave my children a "clean bill of health."

We were all court ordered not to judge or jurisdiction "hop" any longer. We were to only bring matters before Commissioner Snyder.

The "James Gang" left that court room, hopped over to a juvenile commissioner and got yet another pick-up order for my little boys. These people were not held accountable at all for all the things they have done to me and my children.

I am in hiding now: Away from a husband who batters and stalks; Away from the man trying to take my children; Away from the system that seems to have abandoned me. It's as though I don't exist any longer.

There was a time when my phone rang with family and friends who cared about me and what I was doing. Sometimes I was so busy I didn't know how to prioritize what to do and when to do it. Now I sit for days and see nobody but my two remaining children who I am trying to protect.

The loneliness weighs heavy on my soul. I go shopping with my new friend; she and I laugh and go to lunch. We are starting a new history. I was happy with my old friends and old history. My choices have been taken away from me and I seethe with rage that those people still have a life and can do as they

(Continued next page)

The husband who had the affair, threw me away like an old shoe; the Native American [James] who claims he is of the old tradition and how he displayed his misogyny; the police department who would not make an arrest no matter how many times I called because my husband was seen riding around my block; the Superior Court Judge who listened to what these people had to say and issued an order from his throne-on-high to pick up my children…All these people who abandoned, betrayed and hurt me, live as though nothing out of the ordinary happened. I was a nothing in this good ol' boy network. And in the process my children suffer.

(Child Welfare, cont.)

please.

In this new town, life goes on just the same. The school bus comes for my children in the morning. I wait for it to drop them off in the evening. Fear creeps in at the thought of the bus arriving late–or, worse yet, not arriving at all. The fear of the school calling and telling me my sons had been picked up by Rudy, Walter or someone else.

When I leave my apartment (we live in at the edge of town) every thing looks so normal–the McDonalds on the corner, the Burger King down the street. People smile and continue to walk or drive by. None of them know me and would never notice if some day I just wasn't on the corner any longer with my two sons waiting to cross the street into the anonymity of the corner across the street. In my other life people knew me and waved at my crossing.

When I was planning my flight away from that fear and terror, my family and friends cried and said it was like a death. Now they have gotten over me and have found new loves and friends. Life does go on.

I am not dead though, I still live and feel and hurt over what has been taken away from me. I dream of other times–days of happiness so fresh and free. Maybe they never were, maybe I was always alone and just didn't know it.

In this self imposed exile I must endure because of these people, my phone doesn't ring for days. Sometimes I pick up the receiver just to make sure the line is clear and working.

What is real for me today are the good days and the bad days. The good days I am merely afraid. The bad days I am horrified. As of now, I must live in the dark side of the soul. Exiled from my home and freedom all I can do is wait for justice to be done. Wait for the good ol' boys to tire of this game and go on to other projects without so much as a blink of the eye. Never a concern for what they have done to this little humble life or my children's future that they have jeopardized.

The husband who had the affair, threw me away like an old shoe; the Native American [James] who claims he is of the old tradition and how he displayed his misogyny; the police department who would not make an arrest no matter how many times I called because my husband was seen riding around my block; the Superior Court Judge who listened to what these people had to say and issued an order from his throne-on-high to pick up my children. He saw no reason to listen to what I had to say or even consider that what he was doing may interfere with someone's civil rights–All these people who abandoned, betrayed and hurt me, live as though nothing out of the ordinary happened. I was a nothing in this good ol' boy network.

And in the process my children suffer. ◆

Hearing on Reporter's Rights Defines Trial Issues

Dave Zink

Seventy supporters of Tacoma journalist Sandy Nelson overflowed the courtroom of Pierce County Superior Court Judge Vicki Hogan January 3rd when both sides in the Sandy Nelson vs The Tacoma News Tribune case sought summary rulings in their favor. Judge Hogan scheduled Nelson's claim of discrimination based upon political ideology and contract claims for trial, although Hogan dismissed Nelson's constitutional claims.

"Our most important grounds for pursuing the case are preserved by the decision, and we have great expectations that we will win at trial," Nelson said.

Nelson had moved for reinstatement without a trial to her former reporting job at the Tacoma News Tribune (TNT) on the grounds that the newspaper admitted it had banished her to a copy-editing job in September 1990 because of her off-duty activism for gay civil rights and socialist politics. Nelson argued that the TNT's ongoing refusal to reinstate her violates a 1992 law outlawing political discrimination by employers as well as several provisions of the state constitution.

The court found that the 1992 law protecting employees from political discrimination did not apply to Nelson's 1990 transfer because it was not in effect at that time. However, Hogan said a trial should settle the issue of whether there is now a violation because the TNT continues to deny Nelson a reporting beat.

The newspaper had sought blanket immunity from state laws prohibiting political discrimination on the grounds that protecting its "credibility" and "appearance of objectivity" required restricting the political rights of newsroom employees, especially reporters and "newsgatherers". The paper, after all, had hired Sandy to be a "newsgatherer, not a newsmaker". At his point, the TNT's attorney stated that "Sandy has been very active. Just take a look around the room today for evidence of that!" Judge Hogan rejected that argument when she denied the TNT's motion to dismiss Nelson's claim of political discrimination. The TNT was just plain wrong on this point: Nelson really wasn't that active until after they had kicked her out of her reporting job. Again, they could offer no example of how this award-winning journalist had been impartial in her reportage.

But Hogan dismissed Nelson's claims that the transfer violated her rights under the state constitution, which states "the first power reserved by the people is to make law through ballot initiative" and guarantees free access to elections. Hogan also struck down Nelson's claim that the TNT violated state constitutional guarantees of all citizen's rights to "freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects", to petition and to "peaceably...assemble for the common good."

But Hogan dismissed Nelson's claims that the transfer violated her rights under the state constitution, which states "the first power reserved by the people is to make law through ballot initiative" and guarantees free access to elections.

Washington State's constitution does not explicitly limit these rights to actions by government entities. The state Supreme Court has previously given constitutional protections to individuals collecting initiative petition signatures in privately-owned shopping malls. However, Judge Hogan declined the state constitution to Nelson's dispute with her private employer

photo by Martin Munguia

Journalist Sandy Nelson

Nelson, who is being defended by the American Civil Liberties Union, will appeal these state constitutional issues before or after the trial, which is now set for September, 1996—yes, a full 20 months from now!

This will be a potentially watershed decision, and Sandy is on the front lines for all of us on this one. The issue is: How much power should private employers may or may not engage in? Is it really any of the bosses' business? Should they have the power to forbid us to take part in activities which they deem as "politically incorrect?"

If you are concerned about this issue, get in touch with the Sandy Nelson Defense Committee, Post Office Box 5847, Tacoma, Washington 98415. Phone: (206) 756-9971. You can help!

This article is based on a press release from the Sandy Nelson Defense Committee. ◆

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WORKS IN PROGRESS HISTORICAL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1995

"Peace is not an absense of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice." *Baruch Spinoza*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
February is named after Juno Februata, Goddess of the "fever" of love. **JANUARY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 **MARCH** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 ○ full moon ● new moon		**Lupercalia Day** Valentine's Day was originally Rome's Lupercalia, a festival of sexual license. Young men chose partners for erotic games by drawing papers with women's names. The Christians later denounced it as a lewd heathen custom.	**1** 1893- Without authorization from Washington, John L. Stevens declares Hawaii U.S. protectorate 1960- 4 students start Sit-in movement in Greensboro, N.C. 1979- Carter commutes Patricia Heast's sentence	**2** 1858- Pres. Buchanan asks Congresss to admit Kansas as slave state even though Kansas rejected pro-slavery constitution 1959- Public schools in Arlington and Norfolk, Virginia, desegregated with no significant disruption	**3** Festival of Setsubun, a Japanese holiday, marks end of winter 1908- Supreme Court rules Union-sponsored boycotts illegal 1948- Rosa Ingram/ sons condemned to death for murder of white Georgian. She claimed self-defense	**4** 1909- California law segregates Japanese schoolchildren 1950- Prominent U.S. scientists protest use of hydrogen bomb as "a weapon of war" 1974- Patty Hearst is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army
5 1902- French miners win victory; work day reduced to nine hours 1917- U.S. Congress nullifies President Wilson's veto of the Immigration Act; literacy tests required and Asian laborers are excluded except for Japanese	**6** 1904- Maryland joins Southern states in disenfranchising African-Americans 1959- Castro becomes premier of Cuba 1964- Castro cuts off water supply to U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay 23 hours a day	**7** 1886- Riots amounting to a small war occur against Chinese in Seattle. At least 400 are forcibly ejected from their homes. Federal Troops are required to restore order 1904- Mine guard kill 4, wound 3 in labor dispute in Tennessee	**8** 1913- British suffragettes destroy London-Glasgow telephone line 1940- Every tenth person is shot in two villages near Warsaw, Poland. This act is in reprisal for the deaths of two German soldiers	**9** 1905- Russian troops slaughter 150 workers at Nifka mine, Poland 1950- Era of McCarthyism begins by McCarthy charging that the State Dept. is infected with Communists 1969- Boeing 747 jet flies for the 1st time	**10** 1936- German Gestapo given control of concentration camps and made independent of administrative courts 1930- Chicago bootlegging operation shut down, 158 arrested from 31 organizations, 7 million gal.	**11** 1790- The Society of Friends presents to Congress the first petition calling for the abolition of slavery 1937- GM sit-down strike ends. Management recognizes United Automobile Workers Union
12 1793- 1st fugitive slave law enacted by Congress. Measure made it a criminal offense to harbor a fugitive slave 1913- New York commission in Albany reports widespread violations of child labor laws	**13** 1907- Suffragettes storm British Parliament, 60 arrested and many injured 1953- Senator Joseph McCarthy states that Eisenhower's foreign policy is being "sabotaged" by the Voice of America radio network	**14** 1902- Strikes for reduced work hours turn into bloody riots, martial law declared 1991- San Francisco law goes into effect allowing the registration of "dometic partnerships" by homosexual and unmarried heterosexual couples	**15** ○ 1831- Vice-President Calhoun publishes letters relating to Jackson's misconduct during the Seminole War in 1818. Jackson burned Seminole villages and seized Spanish forts until Spain agreed to sell the Florida area	**16** 1760- Indian hostages held in Fort Prince George are slain in retaliation for the renewed raids of the Cherokees. This action on the part of the colonists leads to a renewal of the devastating attacks on the western settlements	**17** 1827- Georgia Governor George M. Troup calls up the state militia to oppose Federal Troops dispatched to western Georgia to bar the premature surveying of the Criik Indian lands which were ceded in the January 24, 1826	**18** 1688- 1st formal protest against slavery by organized white body in English America made by Germantown (Pa) Quakers: denounced slavery/ slave trade 1970- Chicago Seven innocent of conspiring to incite a riot
19 1942- Pres. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing exclusion of suspect persons from war zones designated by the military 1968- Florida: 1st statewide teachers' strike in U.S., 50% of teachers walked	**20** 1869- Tennessee Gov. Brown-low declares martial law in 9 counties in KKK crisis 1905- Explosion kills 100 in Alabama mine 1942- Roosevelt authorizes a program to relocate Japanese-Americans from their homes and land	**21** 1885- Contract Labor law is enacted by Congress which forbids employers from contracting abroad for immigrant labor in return for passage 1965- Malcom X is slain as he is prepares to address an audience in N Y City	**22** 1897- Black postmaster lynched and wife and 3 daughters shot in Lake City, S.C. 1902- Fist fight in the U.S. senate; Sen. Tillman suffers bloody nose for accusing Sen McLaurin of bias on Philippine tariff issue	**23** 1942- Japanese sub fires 25 shells at Santa Barbara oil refinery 1954- Antipolio inoculation of schoolchildren was begun in Pittsburg by Dr. Jonas E. Salk 1991- U.S. and allies launch ground attack against Iraq	**24** 1821- Mexico declares its independence from Spain 1913- British suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst arrested upon admitting her complicity in bombing of Prime Minister Lloyd George's country home	**25** 1839- Seminoles and African-American allies shipped from Florida to the West 1919- Oregon introduces first state tax on gasoline; one cent per gallon, for us in road construction 1964- Cassius Clay wins boxing title
26 1870- Wyatt Outlaw, black leader of the Union League in Almanance County, N.C., lynched 1965- Jimmie Lee Jackson, civil rights activist, died of injuries reportedly inflicted by officers in Marion, Alabama	**27** 1933- Hitler torches the Reichstag in Berlin and then claims it is a Communist plot to oust him from power. Some 5 thousand "Communists" are arrested 1973- Members of AIM take Wounded Knee, South Dakota	**28** 1741- NYC: Panic due to burglaries and fires. Rumor spreads that African-Americans/poor whites are plotting to seize power. 4 whites and 18 African-Americans hanged, 13 African-Americans burned and 70 banished	"In all but one, these burnings [of African-Americans] were witnessed by 2,000 to 15,000 people, and no one in all these crowds had the courage to raise his voice and speak out against the awful barbarism of burning human beings to death." Ida B. Wells 1882 ..... 52 1883 ..... 39 1884 ..... 53 1885 ..... 164 1886 ..... 136 1887 ..... 128 1888 ..... 143 1889 ..... 127 1890 ..... 176 1891 ..... 192 1892 ..... 241 1893 ..... 200 1894 ..... 190 1895 ..... 171 1896 ..... 131 1897 ..... 159 1898 ..... 127 1899 107		**Submissions** If you want to call attention to a future or past event, please send necessary information to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia WA 98507, Atten: Calendar

"America is not the world"

James Baldwin